

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland

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April 21, 2023

Robotics Team Wins Big at District Championship

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Bacon Academy team brought home two blue banners at the New England FIRST Robotics District Championships earlier this month.

The Robocats, otherwise known as Team 1699, traveled to the Big E in Massachusetts to compete among nearly 100 other teams at the district championships.

The 17 members of the Robocats squad came prepared.

The team's robot, Janky Sue, was selected to be a part of the First Alliance, basically the top seed in the competition. Along with Team 757 and Team 176, the alliance won the Wilson Division before ultimately winning the final championship in a dramatic three-match set.

"It was a Cinderella story," said Cindy Praisner, one of the team's four lead mentors.

The Robocats were fortunate to be selected by the top alliance, and once they were there, the team took advantage of the opportunity.

During the final match, the atmosphere was similar to a major sporting event, like the Super Bowl, she said.

"It was very dramatic and very intense," she expressed.

Due to the scoring system, some bystanders, including Praisner, were unsure who won the crucial tie-breaking match. Points are earned during the three-minute round, but then bonus points are allocated afterwards, creating a dramatic reveal.

Then, the final score was shown.

"We won," Praisner exclaimed. "It was super exciting."

YouTube videos show the fast-paced and thrilling action, along with the crowd reaction.

It can be difficult to follow with so many actions taking place. Each match begins with a



The Bacon Academy robotics team won big at the New England district championships earlier this month. Pictured are, back row, Tom Praisner, Cindy Praisner, Alan Mocksfield, John Spaulding, Nate Schulze, Seth Crampton, Julia Cavaliere, Logan Lammey, John Dalton, Chase Vendrillo, Charlie Rose, Alex Mauldin, Noah Auden, Sophie Melmed, Kevin Reas and Brian Reas; front row, Landon Vigil, Gabe Kruse, Eli Banks, Captain Brooke Rodgers, Robot Janky Sue, Callum Cuadro and Captain Sam Ringuette. Missing from photo: Abby Belding, Jason Belding, Mark Noniewicz, Brad Graham and Jack Spaulding.

15-second autonomous period where the robots function on pre-programmed instructions and complete a series of tasks to earn points.

The next stage involves drivers taking control and scoring additional points. Some of the tasks include retrieving game pieces and docking the robot on a charge station.

For the Robocats, arriving at that moment was not an accident, but rather the product of hard work. In January, the exact game details are revealed to the entire FIRST Robotics Compe-

dition world community. A grueling 6-10 week building period begins, often requiring 20- to 30-hour weeks for member students.

"We design and redesign," Praisner explained. "It's a lot of work and time."

And there were setbacks, too. The robot was a little "janky" in the beginning, earning her name.

"She kept fighting us," Praisner recalled.

The journey and the process is perhaps unlike other sports teams, though. The kids who take

part in the club, which is sponsored and housed by the school, embark on a mission that instills numerous qualities.

"They learn a lot more than just building," she said. "There's people skills, communication, teamwork, advocacy and leadership."

Of course, science and technology lovers will thrive, as well, but the group's leadership encourages all students of different backgrounds to participate.

"This is a really great program for kids who don't necessarily fit in other places," she said.

Susie Milner's son Alex Mauldin played a pivotal role on the team. He was the lead programmer and earlier this season, he won the autonomous program award at the Western New England competition.

"It's one of the best programs I've ever seen," Milner said. "It really builds skills that classes can't tap into. It inspires them to work harder."

Milner explained that Alex, a junior, served as a student mentor to new team members. While the adults provide steady guidance and oversight, students are able to help onboard those just getting into robotics.

"That's an unusual opportunity," Milner expressed. "And it's great."

Beyond the teamwork with the members of your own squad, chemistry with your alliance is also important. The Robocats provided valuable input and knowledge that helped the other two teams collectively secure a victory.

"There's just so much camaraderie and they never compete by themselves," she said.

As a parent, Milner believes the robotics program provided her son with a valuable opportunity, and perhaps some people are unaware of the benefits.

"I don't know what I expected," Milner said. "It wasn't just math kids, it was anybody. It's a cross section of students, which I thought was

See Robotics Team, page 2

New Book Highlights Colchester's War History

By Michael Sinkewicz

Over 150 years after the Civil War ended, a new book unearths fascinating details of Colchester's involvement in the conflict.

Married couple Norman Dupuis and Irene Watson recently published *The Men Connected to Colchester, Connecticut Who Served During the Civil War*, which reveals a deeper community tie to the war than previously known.

The book provides a sprawling outline of the war and post-war periods, including names of service members and extensive insight into the town's involvement. Dupuis and Watson spent three years investigating state records, town meeting minutes, artifacts, cemeteries and newspaper clippings to give the reader an in-depth breakdown.

Charts and pictures — plus some original shots — are seamlessly woven into each subsection. Watson and Dupuis, who said they went through 14 different drafts, crafted a book that's both informative and digestible.

The Colchester Historical Society will sell

copies for \$20.

Overall, there were at least 280 men with connections to Colchester who served in some capacity during the war.

"This is much bigger than us," Dupuis said. "It's a piece of history of this town and if I do this right, it'll outlast me."

For Watson, the hope is that people "realize there's a lot more hidden history in our town than people knew."

She expressed that in today's political climate, some Americans suggest that a second Civil War is both necessary and imminent. This book, she explained, examines the local impact a major war has on the community — a cautionary tale.

Watson said it lets readers "really go back and look at the Civil War and all the trauma people suffered."

One of the lasting tributes to the war is located on the Town Green. The Union Monument was erected in 1875 and represents those who died in the conflict.

"The reason that monument is there is to show the anguish people suffered," Dupuis said. "It's a reminder of what we did."

The monument, as explained in the book, is only the starting point for Colchester's rich history. There are 44 names listed on the 16-foot statue and many details are missing.

Dupuis and Watson's intrigue dates back several years. In 2019, the pair published *Stabbed in the Back: The Life of Civil War Private James Gillispie*, which was based on Dupuis' great-great-grandfather who lived in Massachusetts. About nine months later, he wondered, "How many people in Colchester served in the Civil War?"

For the next three years, the couple scoured the state for any war information linking back to Colchester. The town monument, they discovered, "barely scratched the surface." They visited six local cemeteries and documented any markers that were related to the war — some were not actually town residents when they ini-

See Colchester's War History, page 30

Inside...

Table listing local news items: RHAM Former Standout Wins Award (pg 9), Portland Take Paddle to Invasive Plants (pg 11), Hebron Budgets Head to Referendum (pg 14), Marlborough Fire Truck Talks Get Heated (pg 17), Colchester More Potential Banking Concerns (pg 23), East Hampton 'Unfortunate' Budget Cuts (pg 27)

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★ *Robotics Team, cont. from page 1*  
great. This is really where [Alex] found an expansive group of friends. I love to see that and it surprised me.”

Bacon Academy’s Robocats was formed in 2005 as a new STEM opportunity. Hundreds of hours go into designing and building a robot capable of winning a competition.

Praisner said that for about 15 years, a single mentor ran the program. Then during COVID-19, Robotics, like many programs, shut down. Last year was a rebuilding period, and

clearly the team has thrived under a new foundation of volunteers and mentors.

While the club does receive a small stipend from the school budget, it doesn’t come close to covering the total season expenses.

Instead, the club relies on fundraising and sponsors, including Dominion Energy, Raytheon Technologies, ABB, Tsunami T Solutions, Sunstone Construction, InCord and the Lions Club.

However, even with the generous donations, it’s currently impossible to absorb all the poten-

tial expenses. The Robotics World Championship is in Houston, but the Robocats will not be attending due to lofty costs. Praisner said the total would’ve been somewhere between \$25,000-\$35,000, which was unworkable.

Moving forward, the goal is to obtain enough funding to travel to the world event every four years, allowing each student to attend at least once.

Milner and other parents would cook crock-pot dinners for the weekend club meetings. “That’s the way we’re able to support it,” she

said.  
As more sponsors sign on, and the team experiences more success, hopefully the program continues to flourish.

“It’s great to see such an emphasis on teaching kids how to do something useful and be interested in STEM subjects,” Milner said.

Prisoner expressed that the whole championship experience still seems a bit “surreal.”

“The team worked so hard,” she said. “They far exceeded their goals.”



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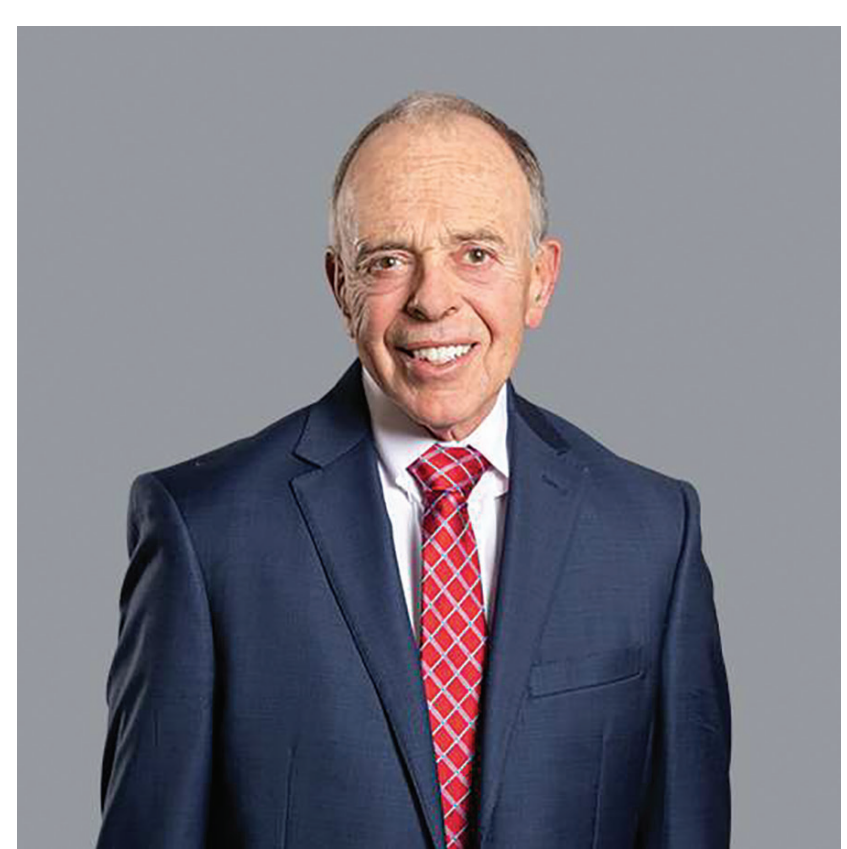
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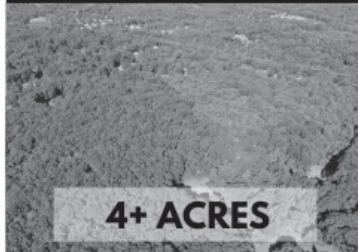
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## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Who doesn't love a good April Fool's joke? And, perhaps more sadistically, who doesn't love seeing an April Fool's joke fall flat?

Yes, April Fool's Day was a few weeks ago, but I happened to be reading about it the other day, as I got curious about its origins – the short answer is “no one really knows,” which, dear reader, was a bit of a disappointment – and I came across a couple of amusing stories in *USA Today* and *Reader's Digest*.

Over the years, plenty of companies have taken advantage of April Fool's Day to have a little fun, and make announcements about new products that aren't really real, or unveil corporate news that, well, isn't true. Most of the time, these pranks go over well; folks look at the calendar, realize it's a joke, have a laugh, and move on. Other times, though, the pranks aren't received in the right way, and was meant to elicit a smile suddenly causes chaos.

And let's be honest, that's what you want to read about this week, right?

In 2018, Elon Musk celebrated April Fool's Day by tweeting out that his company Tesla had gone bankrupt. He tried to be clear it was a joke – but, well, as anyone who's been on Twitter in the last few months can tell you, Elon's not all that funny.

“Despite intense efforts to raise money, including a last-ditch mass sale of Easter Eggs, we are sad to report that Tesla has gone completely and totally bankrupt,” he wrote. “So bankrupt, you can't believe it.”

The prank backfired immediately, *USA Today* reported, causing Tesla's stock to quickly drop 7%.

Woops. Although these days, Elon may look back with fondness at a mere 7% stock drop. Over the course of 2022, Tesla stock lost an amazing 65% of its value.

Back in 1996, Taco Bell thought it would

be the height of hilarity to take out full-page newspaper ads on April Fool's Day announcing it had bought the famous Liberty Bell in Philadelphia and renamed it the “Taco Liberty Bell.” The purchase, the Mexican fast-food giant said, was to “help the national debt.”

Alas, despite the April 1 date on top of those newspaper ads, the prank was taken a little too seriously.

Proving their sense of humor was just as lacking in the 1990s as it is today, members of Congress called the National Park Service to confirm the deal was not real. The park service then held an impromptu press conference to deny the deal, too, *USA Today* reported. Finally, perhaps with a little egg – and salsa – on its face, Taco Bell admitted the whole thing was a joke, and offered to donate \$50,000 towards the preservation of the Liberty Bell.

Interestingly, though, while at first the prank appeared to flop, it turns out it was quite the opposite. Between Congress flipping out and the park service holding a press conference, Taco Bell received free publicity galore – and sales nationwide increased \$600,000 over what they were the week before.

Meanwhile, there was no such upside for the poor news producer at a Boston television station who, in 1980, marked April Fool's Day by producing a television broadcast about a hill in Milton, Mass., that had begun oozing lava and spewing flames. According to *Reader's Digest*, the station included fake warnings from then-president Jimmy Carter and used real footage from actual volcanic eruptions to imply the Massachusetts hill had fully erupted.

A card that read “April Fool” ran at the end of the segment – but it was too late. Hundreds of panicked citizens phoned law enforcement.

**Editor's Desk continued on page 7**



**Poor Unfortunate Souls...** Center School students Sophie Roy and Kayla Engelhardt play minions Flotsam and Jetsam to the scheming Ursula, portrayed by Alexa Colwell, in the school's upcoming production of *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, based on the classic Disney film. Read more about the play on page X.

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### Correction

In a story last week on the proposed East Hampton town budget, Alannah Coshow was identified as the Board of Finance chair. This is incorrect; she is actually the vice chair. The *Rivereast* regrets the error.

### Prudent Budgeting

To the Editor:

Rising inflation has had crippling effects on the taxpayers. With that in mind the East Hampton Board Finance felt it prudent to keep budget increases to a manageable level for residents.

I'm not optimistic about the economy and the ability of the taxpayers to weather this economic storm. We taxpayers are being forced to make difficult decisions and adjustments to our personal budgets. Every time we turn on a light, fill up the car or go to the store, we ask ourselves if this is a necessity. I feel in this economy where the dollar's buying power has been eroded by inflation that it's time for the Board of Education as well as town department heads to ask themselves the same question. In these difficult times, it's needs versus wants.

All facets of government, like taxpayers, need to make some difficult decisions and adjustments. It shouldn't be business as usual.

As a reminder, neither the Board of Finance nor the Town Council can tell the Board of Education what falls under the needs and wants categories. That is solely their decision. The Board

of Finance receives the education budget as one line item and can keep it the same, raise, or lower it. That leaves the question of exactly where to spend in the hands of the Board of Education.

There are more economic hardships in our future. Let's do what we can to prepare.

**Alannah Coshow – Middle Haddam**

*Note: Coshow is vice chair of the East Hampton Board of Finance, but is speaking as an individual.*

### Ahead of the Curve

To the Editor:

On March 29, 2023, centralmaine.com reported the State of Maine fears a collapse in the organic dairy sector. The article defends keeping all the dairy farms afloat saying, “Not only are they the anchor of the state's agricultural economy, but they keep hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland out of development and contribute to the beauty of the state, which is valued by residents and” tourists alike.

Likewise, the Raymond Brook Watershed contributes to Connecticut's dairy industry right here in Hebron. This pristine property should be preserved for future farmers and residents. How do we convince Hebron's Board of Selectman that saving this land is the right thing to do? As Maine loses farmland so, too, does Connecticut. Then what? Short-sighted development plans do little or nothing to preserve our way of life. Moving away is no longer an option, after all, where is away?

Hebron's recent town budget includes

## Bulletin Board

I was examining myself in the full-length mirror in our bathroom following a shower the other morning. “Didn't I used to have hair on my legs?” I asked.

My wife looked up from where she was sorting through her extensive alchemy collection in search of some magic balm or eyeliner or something. “For God's sake, put on a towel!” she said.

“Sorry,” I replied. “I wouldn't want to spoil you for your next husband.”

“The only thing you're spoiling is my breakfast,” she said.

“Ha! I see that gleam in your eye.”

“That's a tear,” she corrected me.

Conceding the field, I said again, “Didn't I used to have hair on my legs?”

“I don't know,” she said. “You used to have hair on your head.”

“Yeah, but that's my head. I never heard of somebody's legs just going bald.”

“You were never the most hirsute person,” observed my in-house crossword puzzle champ.

“You mean hairy?”

“Yes. Hirsute.”

“Well, not like your brother-in-law, The Human Carpet, but I did used to have some hair on my legs.”

“Be nice.”

“I'm sorry. I can't help it if the guy looks like Bigfoot's love child when he takes his shirt off.”

“As opposed to a hairless rat.”

“Maybe it's a hormonal thing,” I speculated, examining a nearly hairless calf.

“I don't know, honey. What's the difference, anyway?”

“Maybe my jeans just wore it all off as I was walking around.”

“I don't think walking back and forth from the couch to the refrigerator is going to have a significant impact on the hair on your legs.”

“You know,” I said, “life is one big mystery. It's just too damn confusing.”

She couldn't help herself. “How so?” she asked, daubing some potion on her cheek and studying the result in the mirror over the sink.

“Well, here I am suddenly with no hair on my head and no hair on my legs and yet I've got a damn forest sprouting out of my nose and ears.”

“Maybe you're not eating enough cauliflower.”

“Does cauliflower encourage hair growth?”

“I have no idea.”

“I hate cauliflower.”

“I know.”

“I'd rather go through life completely hairless than eat cauliflower.”

“Well, if that's the case, you seem to be well on your way.”

“It's age,” I said. “Where did the time go? One minute I've got hair on my legs and I don't have any trouble getting my socks on in the morning and the next thing you know, I can't bend over and I've got hair growing out of my nose.”

“I think you've gotten shorter, too,” she observed.

“Oh, thanks a bunch.”

“Just sayin'.”

“Maybe I'll feel more optimistic about things once I put some clothes on,” I said.

“I know I will,” she remarked.

**Jim Hallas**

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\$245,000 for architectural plans for the Public Works. How do we make sure those plans are for Old Colchester Road and not for our beloved watershed in Hebron Center? What more can we do but vote the budget down? Then what? Attend more meetings? Probably.

Residents of Hebron should be proud of the wisdom demonstrated by previous generations. Their efforts to protect the town's future, by purchasing open land began in the 1960's, even though the Town was not flush with cash. These efforts have buffered Hebron from the ravishes of "Reganomic" type changes. Unlike developments for shopping, housing or municipalities, open land costs the Town little or nothing. These green spaces have attracted those who enjoy a rural lifestyle. Land, like the RBWatershed, offers farmers room to expand. Successful land conservation is something we must continue to pursue. #save17.

Jean Tulimieri - Amston

### Time for Town Manager?

To the Editor: After reading many letters and articles in your *Rivereast News Bulletin* of late regarding Colchester's first selectman, I would hope by now that our first selectman could and should do a better job prior to our next election. Maybe it's time for a Town Manager for Colchester!

Sincerely,  
Steven A. Schuster - Colchester  
Lifetime Resident and Republican

### Biden-Biased Media

To the Editor: How quickly the Biden-biased media trained their investigatory swords on Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas when they sniffed out perceived irregularities in his relationship with a wealthy acquaintance.

The same Biden-biased media has yet to draw a single sword to investigate the Biden family's financial ties to China that smell to high heavens and are perhaps influencing policy decisions.

Peter Kushkowski  
"Almost Heaven"  
Portland

### Become Educated

To the Editor: Again, another group of letters from the same people stating the same things. All of their concerns have been addressed multiple times. On the Town of Hebron's website, there are pages of information with questions and the corresponding answers. I would also suggest contacting the Chatham Health District and finding out for yourselves the instances of salt pollution in the district and how many years ago and the cause of the pollution. Also I would suggest that you spend a few minutes and go down to the Public Works garage and look for yourself, the work environment. Also ask how much equipment is stored off site due to lack of space. If you are able to speak to the director or the foreman, maybe you want to educate yourself on the multitude of laws, both state and federal, that have

changed over the years concerning vehicles, the environment, work site conditions, to name some areas.

Become educated. Base your opinions based on facts and on research done by professionals who are currently active in their fields. There will soon be a questionnaire. The results will help determine the direction of the project.

Thank you,  
Daniel Larson - Amston

Note: Larson is chair of the Hebron Board of Selectmen, but said he is speaking as an individual.



### Bookends

To the Editor: For Brendan Saunders, a friend: Bookends. So necessary to maintain order and appearance. Life too has bookends. Dawn, dusk, a frame defining a day's light hours and dark hours too depending on one's perspective. Bookends can be audio too. The song of the birds define the morning and peepers signal the oncoming dark. From emerging bud to withered blossom, another bookend, time is spent  
See Letters, page 6

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★ **Letters cont. from page 5**

showing off one's best. What lays between the two? Time. An element which is defined by numbers but of measures and includes events, many or few. A lifespan has bookends. It is measurable by what we do or have done and how we spend our time. Our dawns and our dusks. Not defined by peepers and bird songs by the fullness we insert into our days.

Bookends. An ordinary set of simple devices which help keep order. A beginning point and an end.

Brendan, your life was cut short. You filled the days of those who knew you with love, praise and a positive outlook. A true motivator and you made the non-believer believe in doing one's best whenever, however for whatever. You are sorely missed, my friend.

Your bookends have helped define mine and to you I shall be forever grateful.

**Alison Walck – East Hampton**

**Walk, Talk, Cut**

To the Editor,

This weekend, the Hebron Pollinator Pathway is sponsoring a wonderful event to help people learn how to identify and manage invasive plants to our Connecticut ecosystem. Invasive plants do not support our local biodiversity, do not provide food resources to our native birds and pollinators and crowd out our native plant species. Invasives grow fast, quickly overtaking our landscape, yards and native woodlands. Bittersweet, Autumn Olive, Purple Loosestrife, Multi-Flora rose, Mugwort, Japanese Knotweed and many other invasives are dramatically changing our ecosystem. Butterflies, moths, bees and songbirds are all in decline and for these insects and birds to thrive, they need native plants.

During our event (Sat. 10am-noon at Kinney Road entrance to Raymond Brook Preserve in Hebron), Rose Hiskes, a volunteer from the Ct. Invasive Plant Working Group will guide us as we identify common invasives and learn how to control them. Bring your garden tools as we will also remove invasives to make way for native alternatives. Information regarding how to identify and manage invasives will be provided. Space is limited so please register at HebronPollinatorPathway@gmail.com or sinkezmichele@gmail.com.

**Candace O'Shea – Hebron**

**What Have We Come To?**

Dear Concerned Citizens of Colchester:

What have our town politics come to? It seems we cannot have civil discussions about the best interests of our town, and our needs as a community. These decisions should not have become the politicized spectacle they have been. The only board that seems to be functioning despite partisan lines is the Board of Education. They have been a united front, regardless of party affiliation, in advocating in the best interests of Colchester's children.

As a citizen, I have attended all of the BOF and BOE meetings this year, and have been

dismayed, not only by certain members of the BOF, but also by a few community members. The negativity, toxicity, and blatant disrespect has been shameful to witness. I have been disheartened by the hostility demonstrated by certain elected officials throughout the process this year. They were elected to represent our interests and our town with professionalism. That is not what I've witnessed by several members of the BOF, including the chair. I am a proud Colchester resident, but I have been disappointed and embarrassed by these behaviors that have negatively impacted the reputation of our community.

Make no doubt that I have been a steadfast supporter of this budget, including the substantial increase. I recognize the sources of the increase, and that we can no longer prolong the inevitable, considering the minimal to 0% increases over last 10 years. We need to continue to attract young families, small businesses, etc., to our beautiful town to increase our tax base. If we can't unite and collaborate together in the best interest for the future of our town and schools, we will no doubt experience a mass exodus. I don't even want to imagine those long term consequences.

**Sincerely,**

**Erin Kaiser – Colchester**

*Note: Kaiser is a Board of Education employee, but said she is speaking as a resident of Colchester.*

**Clumsy Apology**

To the Editor:

In a rather clumsy attempt to apologize for Donald Trump, Ed Kozlowski peddled false equivalencies between Trump's crimes and the misdeeds of former elected Democrats. Despite his referring to the Democratic Party as "morally destitute" and "hypocritical," the glaring contradiction in this sophomoric conclusion is that Democrats actually held their elected officials accountable.

The difference today is that Republicans didn't hold Trump accountable when he allegedly committed campaign finance crimes after paying hush money to a porn star.

And because they didn't hold him accountable for campaign finance crimes, Trump allegedly solicited Russian interference in the 2016 election. And because Republicans refused to hold him accountable for soliciting Russian interference, he was able to allegedly commit ten obstruction of justice felonies as documented by Robert Mueller. And because they didn't hold him accountable for those ten felonies, Trump was able to allegedly bribe and extort President Zelenski. And because Republicans refused to hold him accountable for extorting Zelenski, Trump allegedly tampered with witness Ambassador Yavonitch. And because they also didn't hold him accountable for witness tampering, Trump was allegedly able to obstruct congressional proceedings for an impeachment hearing. And because they didn't hold him accountable for obstruction, Trump allegedly tried to steal votes in the Georgia election. And because

they didn't hold him accountable for stealing votes, he maliciously declared election fraud. And because Republicans refused to hold him accountable for all the grotesque deceptions which have corroded our democracy, he is now being charged with 34 felony counts.

The truth is the Republican Party is morally bankrupt, dripping in hypocrisy and soaked in grievance. They never cared when Trump mocked a disabled reporter, bragged about sexual assault, incited an insurrection, tried to steal votes, or hosted an actual Nazi at his country club. The only thing they actually do care about is winning at all costs.

**Joe Stevens – Hebron**

**Angertainment**

To the Editor:

"There is no individual alive who has done more to divide America than Rupert Murdoch." Former Australian prime minister Malcolm Turnbull denounces Murdoch's corrosive influence on U.S. democracy. He accurately describes Fox as angertainment. Fox's modus operandi is to keep their audience outraged and engaged.

Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham, and Rupert Murdoch are all expected to be questioned on the witness stand in Dominion's \$1.6B defamation suit against Fox News, which began on April 18th. Fox knowingly pushed false conspiracy theories in order to retain their viewers. Dominion did not settle their case with Fox. This is more than just a lawsuit. It's about holding Fox accountable for the hateful rhetoric they spew along with their lies and misinformation.

**Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough**

*Editor's Note: The Dominion-Fox News lawsuit was settled Tuesday afternoon, after the deadline for the newspaper.*

**Send Clear Message to Belltown Council**

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, April 25, the East Hampton Town Council has a chance to fix some terrible decisions by the Republican-dominated Board of Finance by sending the proposed budget back for additional funding.

Last week, Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith made the stakes clear regarding the education budget. When the Board of Finance chopped almost \$800,000, the worst was feared. And the axe is falling hard: at least five teachers across the district, a part-time math specialist, and any semblance of new programs or increase for classroom supplies.

And then there's the mental health impact. The reduction will also result in the elimination of one-day per week elementary psychologist, not to mention elementary class sizes of at least 24 students. The strain on educators trying to teach and focus on the various and important needs of all these children is going to be unimaginable. Students already in danger of falling behind are going to lose out on individual-

ized instruction and feel more isolated. On top of that, a mental health professional who might be able to help is being taken away.

The Town Council has the power to send the budget back and ask the Board of Finance to restore the funding request, along with cuts to the town side. Then, the Council can send the full spending plans to referendum and let East Hampton decide if they are exorbitant.

Conventional wisdom and party alignment tells us not to hold our collective breaths. However, an overwhelming message of support for our schools, public safety, library, and seniors would be difficult for even the most stubborn councilors to ignore.

Hopefully, the community rallies and puts the necessary pressure on the Council to do the right thing. Tuesday, April 25, Town Hall Council Chambers. Now is the time to speak up.

**Sincerely,**

**Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton**

**What Will it Take?**

To the Editor:

"On the Fourth of July, we gather in a park in downtown Jackson to hear music and watch the fireworks. Earlier in the day, a 21-year-old man shot dozens of people from a rooftop in Highland Park, Ill., killing seven.

Later, Kyle (his wife) and I compare notes: how we both noticed the same open window in a nearby building. How we both had a plan for where we would go with the kids if a gunman – no, let's call him what he is: a terrorist – opened fire on the crowd. The next day, I tell my son the story of the shooting; he asks what we're going to do about it – we the surviving Americans. We're going to buy more guns, I tell him." Noah Hawley, "The Myth of the Frontier Won't Die" from the Jan/Feb issue of *The Atlantic*.

Louisville twice. Alabama. A 16-year-old knocks on the wrong door and is shot by the homeowner. Police show up to the wrong address on a domestic violence call and the homeowner comes to the door with a gun and gets shot by police.

Is this where we are? Thinking that bullets are coming for me and those around me from that open window? That I/we have to worry about going somewhere and getting shot. Can someone please explain to me when I'm supposed to feel/be safer? I don't like hearing my wife say how afraid she is to go somewhere, I don't like her saying sooner or later we'll know someone that gets shot and killed. What is it going to take? What are we going to do about it?

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Eric Manning – Andover**

**Mi\$placed Prioritie\$**

To the Editor,

Tuesday night was the public hearing for Hebron's Board of Finance budget proposal for 2023-24. Unfortunately, there are several significant issues with the budget as it is proposed. Included is a 24.77% increase to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) section of the budget. This irresponsibly massive increase includes \$245,000 for the design plans for a new Public Works facility. This unreasonable expense is for design plans created by BL Companies specifically for the Horton Property / Kinney Road in Hebron Center. However, the location of Public Works has not been resolved. Environmental, historic and economic considerations confirm an upgrade at Old Colchester Road should be the leading option. On Sept. 16, 2022, John Cole, the union representative for Hebron's Public Works employees, clearly stated, "I don't need them to build a new building. I want them to fix what they have." If the union and the employees are seeking repairs to the current facility, why is the Town creating needless expense for designs in a location it may not even use?

As you may also know, the education budget is under great pressure and the BOE is seeking a 6% increase of \$739,274 and the RHAM Assess is a 10.1% increase of \$1,376,260. This money is needed for education and already reduced from

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the proposed 14.5% increase. In addition to a lack of education funding, the contribution to the Open Space Acquisition fund is being cut by an astonishing 80%, from \$125,000 to a meager \$25,000. This is simply unacceptable.

If the Town of Hebron does not reconcile its priorities, abandon unnecessary Public Works construction, support education and restore funding to Open Space, I urge Hebron's residents to reject the proposed budget at the May 2 referendum. For more information please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Sincerely,  
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

**Just Say No, Hebron**

To the Editor:

Hebron's town government, insiders, consultants, developers and their minions have expensive and ill-considered plans for taxpayers. First, they want to build an unneeded \$20M+ public works complex in the town center. Then, town records show they are planning to build a \$50M+ (my estimate, probably low) municipal complex to include a new town hall, police station and fire station. They intend to extend the sewers, build roads and develop the pristine, 55-acre, town-owned Horton property. There isn't enough groundwater, so they propose to build a pipeline from Amston Lake to the town center. All to be paid for by us. Essentially, Hebron taxpayers are being required to pay for projects that will ruin our town. How wrong is that?

To support construction of these unneeded municipal buildings, there will be steep tax increases – not just the unacceptable increase in this town budget. Money for seniors, education,

and other priorities will dry up. And, despite conventional wisdom, commercial development, with additional infrastructure costs and increased crime rates, doesn't decrease taxes (see Glastonbury, Canton and other towns).

We have an opportunity to stop this madness on May 2. As a harbinger of gold-plated projects to come, \$245K is slotted for a workplan for the \$20M+ PW complex in the town CIP budget. (\$245K for a report? That buys a house!) This workplan is Hebron's gateway to a cascade of calamitous developments. It's time to just say no. If you want to stop construction of public works in the town center, vote no on the Hebron CIP budget. If you don't want them to suck Amston Lake dry, vote no. If you want reasonable taxes, vote no. If you want Hebron to stay rural and safe, vote no.

Just say no on May 2.

John Collins – Amston

**Morality Police**

To the Editor:

Do you live a heteronormative lifestyle? Are you a believer in the Constitution and the inalienable, God given rights embodied in our Bill of Rights?

Do you think biological males shouldn't be allowed to compete in women's sports?

Do you object to children being taught adult subject matter, sexual orientations & gender identities in kindergarten?

Do you think rampant levels of illegal immigration will eventually erode our national sovereignty?

Do you consider the Second Amendment as important as the First Amendment?

**Editor's Desk continued from page 4**

The producer who cooked up the whole idea, meanwhile, was fired for failing to exercise "good news judgment" and breaching FCC regulations, *Reader's Digest* reported.

Then there's the April Fool's Day 2016 incident that Google I'm sure still regrets. According to *Reader's Digest*, Google added a "mic drop" button to its email program that day. When clicked, it sent a GIF to the recipients of the outgoing email – and also *literally disabled replies*, thereby shutting down the conversation, just like, well, a mic drop.

What might've been a cute gag turned into

a real problem when Google in its infinite wisdom decided to place the "mic-drop" button right next to the "send" button. This, *Reader's Digest* reported, led many people to accidentally "mic-drop" folks they were emailing – including bosses and clients. One person even reported being fired due to the prank.

Google ultimately disabled the "mic drop" button before April 1 was over, but the damage had been done.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

Are you a person who believes that elective abortion is not a form of birth control but actually the untimely ending of a growing human's life?

Do you attend Christian religious services and/or have a belief in an external creator?

Are you a person who disagrees with one-size-fits-all medical mandates?

Do you prefer mean tweets/booming economy to political correctness/global depression?

Have you ever "questioned The Science"?

If you answered yes to any of these questions then you most likely are suffering from a crisis of morality. If you don't agree wholeheartedly with the talking points of the DNC, "The Squad," the UN, or the IPCC there is a good chance you're actually an amoral deviant bent on the destruction of our "New Normal" in the reimagined, new world order USSA...and you probably didn't even know it!

Luckily for you, the MSM and government school system are constantly reinforcing acceptable narratives of the day, squashing any kind of dissenting, and potentially dangerous, viewpoints. In the near future, we will hopefully establish proper reeducation camps for those either unwilling or too old to conform. In this battle for the "Soul of America," please don't remain apathetic. This isn't a Republican or Democratic issue...it's an issue of morality...and you either have it or you don't.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

**Biden**

To the Editor:

On Sept. 11, 2001, al-Qaeda terrorists attacked America, killing thousands. Among the terrorists, 15 were Saudi Arabians. As U.S. President, Biden bargained unsuccessfully with the Saudis to increase their oil production to assuage his own domestic energy policy incompetence...after previously calling Saudi Arabia a "pariah." His threat of "serious consequences" for Saudi Arabia as a result of this failure have never materialized. The U.S. and Saudi Arabia have always been tight for political and financial reasons, and the success of that relationship is predicated significantly on the capability of the

sitting U.S. President to tie his own shoes. Houston, we have a problem...

As VP, Biden facilitated Hunter's use of Air Force 2 as a taxi service for "business" meetings to countries with questionable government policies and intent. Considering that Hunter's idea of multitasking is lighting a crack pipe and operating the camera on his iPhone simultaneously, a reasonable person might be skeptical regarding the motives behind the appointment of such a multi-tasker to a lucrative directorship of a Ukrainian energy company. As VP, papa Joe also threatened the hold-up of \$1.6B in aid to Ukraine – perhaps because he wanted a certain investigation into this energy company was quashed. Lo and behold...done! And now, Biden is pumping billions into that same country as it is slowly dismantled into a rock quarry. And there is something fishy about Hunter's painting hobby. Who's actually buying these paintings? I think we know.

And recently Clarence Thomas has come under fire for his relationship with a billionaire. Really? Has anyone looked into Pelosi, Schumer, Feinstein, and Warren? Actual policy makers? Do you not understand politics?

Forget about Clarence Thomas... If only someone could have warned us about Bill Clinton. There are more than a few women who would have appreciated it.

Happy trails,  
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

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# Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

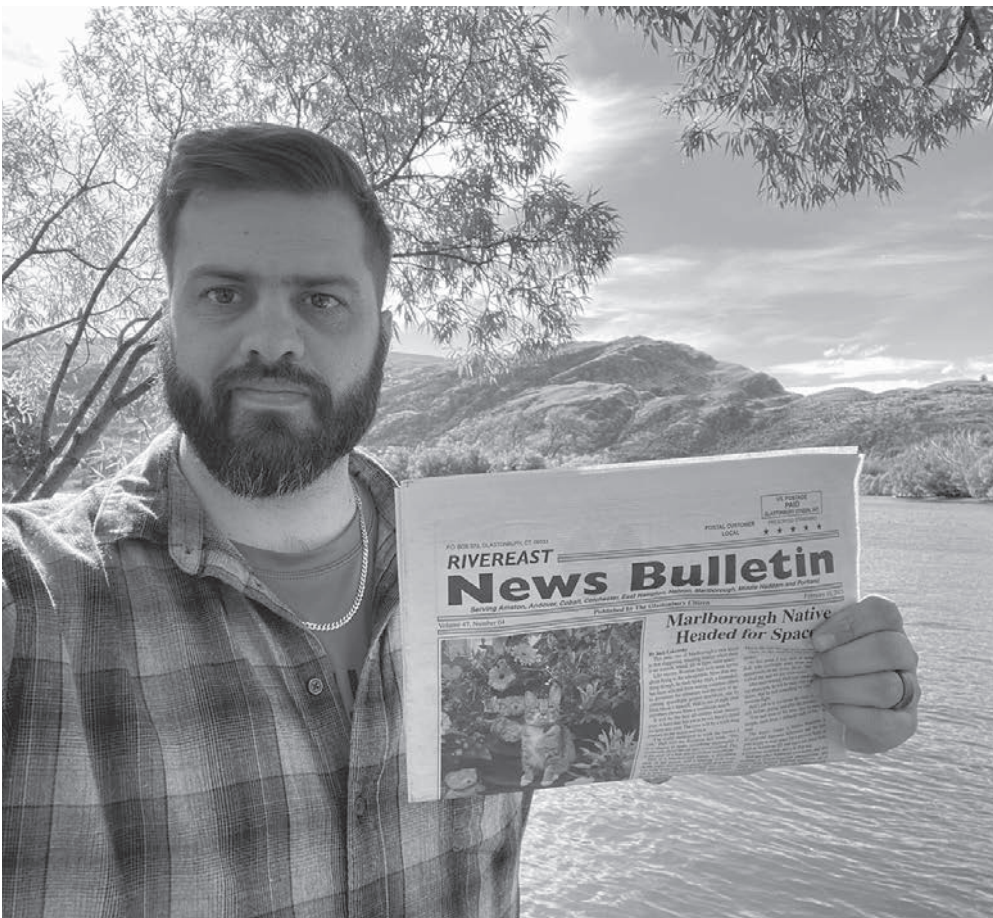
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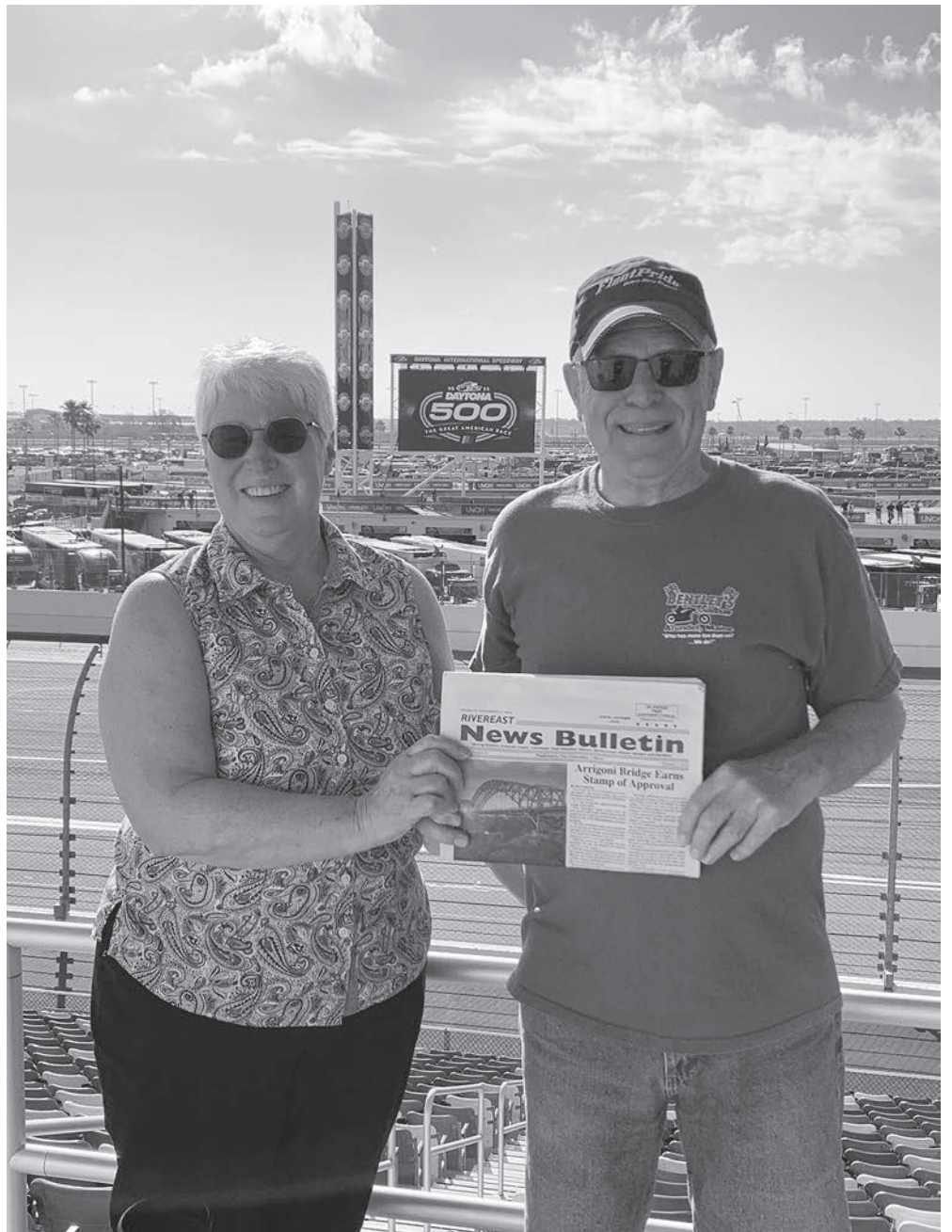
**A Trip to the Holy Land...** Allan and Patty Wick of East Hampton recently returned, along with a copy of the *Rivereast*, from an 11-day Insight for Living Israel Holy Land Tour. This photo was taken with Jerusalem's Temple Mount in the background.



**Taking a Cruise...** Rudy and Meaghan Dellafiore of Hebron recently took a cruise out of the port of Miami on the Royal Caribbean Oasis of the Seas. Their first stop was Labadee Haiti. They said the beaches were beautiful, with crystal-clear waters and gorgeous mountain tops.



**Off to New Zealand!...** Kevin Harris, a financial advisor in Colchester with Edward Jones, recently went to beautiful Queenstown, New Zealand – and of course had the *Rivereast* with him!



**Start Your Engines...** Randy and Kathy Mund of Hebron are shown here at the Daytona 500, in Daytona Fla., on Feb. 19.

## Where in the World?

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# This Summer, Take a Paddle to Invasive Plants

By Jack Lakowsky

Over the years, the Connecticut River has been infested by numerous invasive plants, but two of them are especially harmful and prolific.

Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) was brought to Massachusetts in the late 19th century and now has become common in ponds, lakes and rivers in the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions. Hydrilla is more mysterious in origin, though just as detrimental in its effects.

The Jonah Center, a Middletown-based environmental nonprofit with an active presence in Portland, is trying to fight off the invaders – and it needs help.

John Hall, Jonah Center director, said it's imperative to do whatever possible for the health of the Connecticut River, an asset of enormous value to both the local economy and ecosystem.

National archives dating back to the Clinton administration put the river's value at more than \$200 billion annually, flowing through a region of more than 2 million people.

If it isn't protected, the river's value and beauty could be in jeopardy.

Hall wants to combat two main river banes.

How? Well, like some parents used to do – get the paddle. To fight the scourge, Jonah needs volunteer troops. Starting May 27, the center will start a campaign against the invasive plants; contact the center for more info and to get involved.

Hall provides thorough details on the two targeted plants.

Water chestnut – which is not to be confused with water chestnuts you buy in a can at the grocery store – multiplies quickly to form large, thick mats that cut off sunlight and oxygen needed by native plants and animals, including fish, and birds that feed on fish. The mats can also obstruct navigation by motorboats, canoes, and kayaks, according to an article by Hall.

Fortunately, *Trapa natans* is an annual plant, so it can be controlled by hand-pulling if action is taken early enough in the season – that is, before seeds form and drop.

Without prompt action, however, the mats will expand to cover large areas of the river surface. At that point, the best remedy is to deploy mechanical harvesters, operated by professional workers, at considerable cost.

The other invasive aquatic plant, Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) has shown up more recently in the form of a stubborn variety that, dubiously curious, appears to be unique to the Connecticut River.

Since Hydrilla is a perennial, and because it multiplies by fragmentation, motorboat propellers have accelerated its proliferation. Hydrilla cannot be controlled by hand-pulling, and attempting mechanical removal is not only impractical but counterproductive due to fragmentation. That leaves herbicide treatment as

the only option, a costly, unpopular method.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is undertaking a research program on this plant and possible methods to control it.

Come summer, the Jonah Center will further expand its work to remove *Trapa natans* from the Connecticut River and tributaries.

Prior to 2022, the Jonah Center's water chestnut work was focused primarily in the Floating Meadows – the 1,000-acre freshwater tidal marshland between Cromwell and Middletown where the Mattabeset and Coginchaug Rivers converge.

In the summer of 2022, Hall began coordinating work parties along the main stem of the river between Hartford and Essex as an emergency measure, the emergency being the release of a 7-acre mat of *Trapa natans* – along with its huge but unknown number of mature seeds – from Hartford's North Meadows flood storage pond in August 2021. This "disaster" led to widespread seed germination downriver from Hartford to Essex.

The Lower Connecticut River Land Trust recognized Jonah Center's volunteers' ambitious efforts to mitigate the damage by awarding them the Melvin Woody Lower Connecticut River Conservation Award in February 2023.

As approaches, the Jonah Center is equipped with 2 flat-bottomed utility boats, known as Jon boats (one motorized and one non-motorized). A team of certified motorboat operators and a team of rowers are organized to support a still more robust effort to save the river and its coves from invasive water chestnut.

Hall said Portland Boat Works owner Paul Cusson has been very helpful and generous in providing free boat storage, docking, and use of the boat launch ramp for the Jonah Center's work in this area.

Now, the center needs volunteers – canoe and kayak paddlers – to join the "paddle with a purpose" work parties starting on May 27.

These will continue every Saturday until late July in partnership with the Connecticut River Conservancy. (Times will vary according to tides. Contact the center to get schedules.)

Work parties in the Floating Meadows will launch at 185 Johnson Street in Middletown's North End. Smaller work parties, some on mid-week mornings or evenings, will launch from Portland Boat Works, the Town Landing in Middle Haddam, Haddam Meadows State Park, or the south end of River Road in Cromwell.

Paddlers are also needed by the Connecticut River Conservancy to address *Trapa natans* in Glastonbury, Wethersfield, East Hartford, and Hartford. An especially large and stubborn infestation emerges every year in Keeney Cove in Glastonbury.

Hall told the *Rivereast* that as the region grew, the river bore much of the brunt, with pollution



**A party of volunteer paddlers, working with the Jonah Center, pull invasive plants from a patch in Pecausett Pond in Portland, a "gratifying and fun activity in the great outdoors."**

and transplantation of invasive species among the main problems.

In the case of hydrilla, arguably the more difficult of the two, motorboats are largely to blame, Hall said. Hydrilla reproduces by fragmentation, and when a boat propeller chops it, the plant proliferates. It spreads when boaters switch water bodies without properly washing and drying their vessels.

"We're not sure where it came from," Hall said.

Complicating things, using herbicide in rivers is not only unpopular, but likely ineffective; rivers, by design, don't stay put, carrying the treatment away from the targeted spot.

Water chestnut is far less dainty than the name connotes. Brought to the U.S. by a Harvard botanist with dreams of a pretty water garden, "it just spread and spread from there," said Hall.

How it spreads are these "tiny spiny nuts" that stick to, especially, the bellies of birds, detach-

ing in another water body, thereby reproducing. As long as the nuts aren't ready to drop, water chestnut can be pulled out. Hydrilla can't be – you're actually doing it a favor.

Aiding the river, "behooves us all," Hall said. "Humans caused the problems, we have to pay attention to the damage and try to rectify it," said Hall.

Also, paddling around the river on a gorgeous summer day, and doing good work all the while, is just fun.

"You meet like-minded people," said Hall, "this is a fun way to meet people who care."

Want some alone time? You can do it on your own, just make sure you know what you're looking for and how to get rid of it.

Portland is just one of dozens of towns on the river, and it has one of the longest stretches of shoreline. Hall said it would be hugely helpful if towns could, aside from organizing their own efforts, publicize the Jonah Center's work with the river.

## Vocal Chords Spring Concert

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords (MHVC) will present its 33rd annual spring concert, entitled "It's a Grand Night for Singing" on Saturday, April 29, at 7 p.m., at Portland High School, 95 High St.

MHVC will also present scholarships to graduating students from Middlesex County who will be pursuing a career in nursing or

music. Proceeds from ticket sales and the Patron Drive help to fund this community outreach program.

Tickets for the concert are \$25; call Diane at 860-347-2787 or Joyce at 860-342-3120 to reserve your seats. For more information, visit [VocalChords20.org](http://VocalChords20.org) or "like" the group on Facebook.

## Preschool Screening April 28

Valley View School will conduct a preschool screening Friday, April 28, for children ages 3-4. The screening is designed to answer questions about a child's development, as well as identify children who may be eligible for the preschool selection process.

During the screening, children will meet with members of Valley View's preschool team and participate in a variety of activities that assess different such developmental areas as cognition, communication, fine and gross motor skills, and social interaction. During this time, par-

ents/caregivers will meet with another member of the team to discuss the child's adaptive and personal social skills.

Following the screening, parents/guardians will be sent a letter stating their child's results. In order for children to attend Valley View's preschool program they must participate in the screening process. Peer role models are determined on a year-to-year basis.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, call Valley View at 860-342-3131.

## Final Days to Register for Tag Sales

The Portland Historical Society's 27th annual Town-Wide Tag Sales Day will be on Saturday, May 13 – and all registrations must be received (even if mailed at post office) by Monday, April 30.

Fee to register is \$25. To register online, visit [www.portlandhistsoc.org](http://www.portlandhistsoc.org) and click on the big yellow banner. Registration sheets were also included in the society's March newsletter and are also available in the barrel on the front steps of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History, located at 492 Main St. Completed pa-

## Foodshare Truck

The Connecticut Foodshare truck comes to the Waverly Center, 7 Waverly Ave., every other Monday from 1-2 p.m., except for holidays. People do not have to be a Portland resident to attend. Please bring bags.

The next Foodshare visit will be Monday, April 24, at 1 p.m.

## Horseshoe League Seeks New Members

The Portland Horseshoe League is looking for new players of all abilities to participate for the 2023 season, which will start in late May (date to be determined).

Folks from surrounding towns are welcome also. Games take place at the horseshoe pits in Bransfield Park on Rose Hill in Portland. The league meets from 5:45 to 8 p.m., and league leaders are currently deciding on the best day of the week to throw.

Email Andy Bauer at [AndyTBauer@gmail.com](mailto:AndyTBauer@gmail.com) if interested and let him know what days work for her. Portland Horseshoes is an alcohol-free activity.

per registrations along with payment should be mailed to the society at P.O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480, and received by April 30.

The sign-up period will then close to allow time for preparation and printing of the map prior to the May 13 sales. Portland residents who sign up will be assigned a spot on the society's official Tag Sale Map issued for that day listing the sale locations and types of items featured at each one. Each registered tag sale will be marked with a numbered pole sign corresponding to sale locations on the map.

Also on Saturday, May 13, the society will have a Bake Sale of homemade goodies at the Callander House. Members and friends of the society will be baking before Saturday and packaging their specialties for this sell-out sale.

The annual Town-Wide Tag Sales Day is a major fundraiser for the Museum. For more information, call 860-982-1486 or email [portlandcthistory@gmail.com](mailto:portlandcthistory@gmail.com).

## Dog Tales

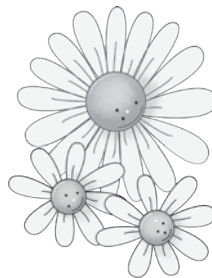
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# Talks on Buying Fire Truck Get Heated

By Jack Lakowsky

Tensions ran high at a Marlborough Board of Selectmen meeting Tuesday night as selectpersons, Interim Town Manager Amy Traversa and local fire chief Kevin Asklar went back and forth over how to move ahead with buying a new apparatus, the large "classic" looking fire truck.

Debate centered on a proposed \$50,000 down payment to secure a price for a new truck, the price of which is set to rise as soon as next month, Asklar told the board. In March, after separate approvals by both the finance and select boards, local voters okayed using the 50 grand to secure the truck, set at almost \$800,000.

The department's current apparatus is a 1991 model, Asklar said.

Then, as things, proceeded and the fire department got its paperwork together, a disagreement arose between the chief and the interim town manager, who raised questions about the thoroughness of Asklar's documentation and the town's mandated bidding process.

Asklar said he sent detailed specifics to town staff, assuming it would get to Traversa and the board. They appeared to not have much knowledge of what Asklar sent, with acting board chair Deb Bourbeau saying turnover has caused disruption.

Asklar and the fire department used what's basically a third-party bidding vendor, called Sourcewell, which searches for truck vendors, and contracts with the state. Using them, the town doesn't need to go through a typical bidding process, according to Asklar and selectman Greg Lowery, who previously served as

first selectman.

Eventually, Asklar learned Traversa refused to sign the \$50,000 check, which voters had indicated was their will.

Bourbeau, and Traversa, as they've said before, said they want to make sure there's back-up files aplenty for the new town manager. Traversa has said the town's recordkeeping has been, in a word, lax.

Traversa said when she took office she had to "scuttle to put together" about \$600,000 for a new rescue vehicle. She said this was a chaotic, time-consuming process, especially finding financing. She wants to avoid this happening again.

She said, "here we're putting down almost a million" without planned "appropriations."

"We need proper documentation," she said. "The \$50,000 was to be moved from reserves to the fire department. A purchase [of a vehicle] hasn't been approved."

Bourbeau said she wasn't saying no to the truck, but to the process, and added the selectboard and other involved town boards have "never denied them [the fire dept.] anything." She said the selectboard and the town manager need to know how the town's various bidding processes work.

Bourbeau was also concerned about getting a truck too big to fit in the firehouse garage, and possible price changes.

Irked, Asklar said he found any notion he didn't provide paperwork offensive, and that he felt Traversa was needlessly stonewalling

something voters said they want. He said the truck would of course fit the garage and said the truck's dimensions were in the info he sent more than once.

"You can't sit there and tell the public we never gave you that information," said Asklar.

He said by law, once a price on an order is set, the vendor can't raise it. Also, the department didn't come up with a financing plan because "that's not on us."

Lowrey agreed with Asklar, saying the \$50,000 request was not a surprise, or shouldn't have been, and that there was no "surreptitious" intent by either the department or its oversight board, the Fire Commission. He also said it's just practical, with prices soaring rapidly, seemingly without end.

Lowrey said from the outside, holding onto the 50 grand looks like a subversion of voter will by the selectboard.

Lowrey said the department and the fire commission came up with an exact cost, a demonstrated need and a compelling argument that prices are set to rise again on May 15.

Eventually, Asklar refreshed some memories.

Six years ago, he said, he and the fire commissioners developed a vehicle replacement plan

and said buying the new apparatus has been in the cards for two years and wasn't put into the current budget during talks last year.

Now it comes up again, he said, and, to the board, "it seems to be a surprise."

He said in February, the finance and select boards gave their approvals, and on March 16, voters gave theirs. He said he sent about 70 pages of documents the next day, and on the 20<sup>th</sup> was asked for more information on the bidding process. He explained Sourcewell to the town, then got more questions, which he said he answered.

That's around when he heard Traversa was refusing to sign the check.

Local volunteer firefighter Mark Merritt said people work for the company for free, spend countless hours training, missing important life moments, facing potentially fatal dangers with a "volunteer spirit", said it's crushing to the spirit that the new equipment "doesn't matter" Traversa.

Eventually, after much discussion, some of which was rather pointed, the board did move the whole package forward, and now the town will move ahead with the whole purchase, first finding financing.

## Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship and Sunday School at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. Worship is streamed every Sunday at [mcc.marlconchurch.org](http://mcc.marlconchurch.org) and recorded for later viewing at the website. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service.

April 23: Worship will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Her sermon title is "Faithsplaining," based on Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19. The Bell Choir will play for the Centering Moment and the anthem sung by the Chancel Choir.

Outreach: The church supports a variety of mission projects. Second quarter mission-giving will go to AHM Mental Health Fund. The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring their donations. The Drive-Thru Café provides a take-away hot meal at the

church to Marlborough Food Bank clients on the last Sunday of every month (except July and August). Once a month the youth groups prepare and serve a meal to residents at Florence Lord Housing. Once in May and November, the church sponsors the evening meal at the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen in Middletown.

AA meets downstairs in the Great Hall Wednesdays with two meetings, one at noon and another at 7:30 p.m.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop: Open for selling and donations Fridays from noon-3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The shop also sells items year-round through eBay at [bit.ly/MCCebay](http://bit.ly/MCCebay).

General Info: Worship services and programs are open to all. The church is an Open and Affirming faith community. For more information on the church or its programs, call the church office at 860-295-9050 or the Rev. Valerie Seaver's direct line at 860-295-0432.

## Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Dr., is open for activities. Call 860-295-6209 for the center's hours and more information.

**Monday, April 24:** Free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; socialization, 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: orange juice, all-beef hot dog, hot dog bun, smoked baked beans, 4-way vegetable blend, fresh fruit; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; setback or cards of choice, 1-4 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 25:** Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; free bread and bakery goods, 10 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

**Wednesday, April 26:** Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: potato crumb fish with tartar sauce, mashed potatoes, broccoli Normandy, 12-grain bread, fresh fruit; setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-7 p.m.

**Thursday, April 27:** Socialization, 10 a.m.-noon; Tai Chi, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Parkinson's Disease Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.

**Friday, April 28:** Socialization, 8-Ball Pool, Mahjong Playing Cards, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Celebrate Coffee Cake Day! Menu: 100% fruit punch juice, roasted turkey breast with gravy, cranberry sauce, cornbread stuffing, mixed vegetables, wheat dinner roll, coffee cake; Setback, 1-4 p.m.

**Congregate Meals:** All meals are served with milk, bread and margarine. Suggested donation: \$3 or what you can afford.

**Transportation:** Available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Transportation available to the senior center, shopping, and medical and non-medical appointments. A 36-hour advance registration is required. Masks are also required, as well as appropriate distancing.

**Food Bank:** Located at 3 Wilhenger Drive (860-295-6008), the food bank is open Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-noon and 3:30-5:30 p.m. The food bank is open to qualified residents in need of food. Transportation for seniors and physically challenged individuals is available; call the senior center for a ride.

## Sewer Bills Due May 1

Homeowners in the Marlborough Sewer District are reminded that the last day to pay their Benefit Assessment Bill, without interest, is Monday, May 1. Late bills will be charged interest at 1.5% a month reverting to the due date of April 1.

The tax office, located at 26 N. Main St., is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, from 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Bills can be paid by mail to the Tax Office, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447, in person or the lockbox to the left of the Town Hall Door (no cash in the lockbox, checks only). Sewer bills cannot be paid online.

For questions, contact Barbara Murray at 860-295-6205 or [taxcollector@marlboroughct.net](mailto:taxcollector@marlboroughct.net). Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the fee or interest.

## Parks and Rec Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit [marlboroughct.recdesk.com](http://marlboroughct.recdesk.com) and click on "programs," stop by the office at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St., or call 860-295-6203.

**Special Event: Kids Fishing Derby:** Sunday, May 7, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park, for ages 4-15. Registration is \$10. Prizes will be awarded for biggest fish, smallest fish and first fish caught.

**Youth Programs: Soccer Shots:** Saturdays, April 22-June 17, at the West Road Memorial upper field. Mini, for age 2, is 3-3:45 p.m., and Classic, for ages 3-5, is 3:45-4:30 p.m. Fee for Mini is \$102/resident, \$107/non-resident, and fee for Classic is \$108/resident, \$113/non-resident.

**Kids/Family Sewing - PJ Shorts:** Saturday, May 6, 10-11:30 a.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for ages 8 and up. All supplies included. Fee: \$48/resident, \$53/non-resident.

**Tennis Lessons:** Tuesdays, May 9-30, at Blish Park. Ages 5-7 are 3:45-4:30 p.m., and are \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident; ages 8-12 are 4:30-5:30 p.m. and are \$85/resident, \$90/non-resident.

**Lifeguard Certification Course:** Sundays, May 14 and 21, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Camp Hemlocks in Hebron. For ages 15 and up. Participants who successfully complete the course receive an American Red Cross certificate for Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED, valid for 2 years. Registration fee is \$350.

**Junior Golf Clinic:** Tuesday, May 16, 4:45-6 p.m., at Minnechaug Golf Course in Glastonbury. Fee: \$40.

**Horseback Riding Lessons:** For ages 5 and

up. Lessons are private, an hour in length, and days and times are flexible. Fee is four lessons for \$175/residents, \$180/non-residents.

**Adult Program: Zumba:** Thursdays through May 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the conference room at Fire Station No. 2 and virtually. There is a \$10 drop-in fee each week.

**Adult Golf Clinic:** Friday, May 19, 5:30-7 p.m., at Minnechaug Golf Course. Fee: \$40.

**Adult Volleyball:** Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at MES. Cost is \$5 per week; drop in. Session runs until June 2.

**Trips: New York Yankees Bus Trip:** Sunday, May 28. See the San Diego Padres vs. New York Yankees, at 1:05 p.m. Trip includes: charter bus, ticket to the game, cookout before the game, games and prizes on the bus. Registration fee: \$120 for upper level outfield, \$165 for sections 232-234. Bus departs Putnam park and ride in Glastonbury at 7:30 a.m., and returns at 6 p.m.

**Boston Red Sox vs. New York Yankees Bus Trip:** Saturday, June 10, at 7:35 p.m., at Yankee Stadium. Trip includes: charter bus, ticket to the game, food served on the way to the game, and games and prizes on the bus. Registration fee: \$209. Bus departs Putnam park and ride in Glastonbury at 3 p.m. and returns at around 1 a.m.

**Driveway Reflective Number Signs Available:** Cost of the sign is \$35. Help emergency services personnel find your home without delay. Vertical sign is double-sided 8" x 24" with 4" numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

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**Marlborough Lions Club members Tom Reiser and Ken Hjulstrom recently performed vision screening at Riverside Magnet School in East Hartford.**

**Lions Perform Vision Screening**

Members of the Marlborough Lions Club recently provided free vision screening for elementary school children at the Riverside Magnet School in East Hartford. Marlborough Lions Tom Reiser and Ken Hjulstrom screened over 200 children within three hours. The vision screening is non-invasive and does not require any eyedrops. The procedure uses a photographic process from a distance of three feet to detect any anomalies.

This screening is performed to detect early indications of far and near sightedness, astigmatism, anisometropia, strabismus, ambliopia and anisocoria. If an issue is detected, the school

nurse is informed so that the parents can then be advised to seek further evaluation.

The Lions obtained a vision screening camera and printer at a cost of approximately \$8,000 and have performed annual screenings at Marlborough Elementary School in addition to coordinating vision screenings with other area communities.

For more information regarding vision screening or any other Lions activities, or for more information about becoming a Lion, call Reiser at 860-338-1008 or Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

**Ladies English Tea and Luncheon**

There will be a Ladies English Tea and Luncheon, with traditional food served, at Fellowship Evangelical Free Church, 24 South Rd., on Saturday, May 6, from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

The theme is "A Spring Cleaning for the Heart and Soul." The speaker will be Julie Kieras, mother of two boys, homeschool mom, and author of several books for women and children. She is a former English teacher who helps homeschool families by sharing

resources, encouragement, and motherhood content on her website, happystronghome.com. Her aim is to glorify God by encouraging women to build happy homes on a strong foundation of faith.

RSVP by Wednesday, April 26, at [fcfree@gmail.com](mailto:fcfree@gmail.com) or call 860-295-0844. Ladies ages 13 and up are welcome. There will be gluten-free options.

**St. John Fisher Church News & Notes**

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Alvin LeBlanc; John McKaig is deacon emeritus. The church office can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via the phone or email at [stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com).

**Weekend Masses:** 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. All are welcome. **Weekday Mass:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Sundays, 4-5 p.m.

**Family Faith Formation:** This is an active family faith formation program for the church's kindergarten through middle school population. For more information, call the church office.

**Confirmation Community:** The church's active 9th- and 10th-grade confirmation program continues. Registration is required as well.

**Adult Worship Choir:** Meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. All are welcome to join. More information can be found on the church website.

**Community Outreach and Service:** Food drives are held the second full weekend of each month for Marlborough Food Bank. Sandwich-making and collection is the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. The Community Garden to benefit Marlborough Food Bank supplies fresh produce each week and volunteers are always welcome. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website and are scheduled monthly.

**Other Programs and Offerings:** For more information on such programs as adult faith formation, youth group, RCIA, Knights of Columbus or other ministries, call the office, visit [www.stjfcchurch.org](http://www.stjfcchurch.org), or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

**Modern Riffs at Arts Café**

The Modern Riffs ([www.modernriffs.com](http://www.modernriffs.com)), a Marlborough-based classic rock, jazz and pop band, will perform at the 4th Friday @ the Arts Café on Friday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m., at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St.

This group is a collaboration of high school musicians and long-time experienced musicians. The April 28 show includes a lineup of high-energy material from Stevie Wonder, Steely Dan, Spiral Staircase, AWB, Patsy Cline, Earth Wind and Fire, and many others.

Current Riffs members include three RHAM seniors – singer Caelyn Calhoun, bassist Miguel Genung, and trumpeter Ben Cancellaro. The others, also from RHAM, are drummer Alexa Odoy, trumpeter Trevor Hooker, baritone saxophonist Finn Blake, and tenor saxophonist Jake Sauer. The two adult mentors are Keith Coakley, keyboards; and Bruce Phelps, alto saxophone.

Admission is \$10/person. Doors open at 7 p.m.

**Veterans Award Ceremony**

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz and the Department of Veterans Affairs are hosting a Veterans Awards Ceremony Monday, May 8, at 4 p.m., in the community room at Marlborough Elementary School, to honor all Marlborough veterans who served during the Korean War or during the Vietnam era.

Invitations from the town manager's office have been mailed to those veterans who are

registered with the town clerk's office. If you are eligible and have not received an invitation, please call the interim town manager's office at 860-295-6204 by April 27, in order to be placed on the list of invitees.

All residents wishing to join in paying tribute to the local veterans are welcome to attend the ceremony.

**Independent Party Info Session**

Sue Stolfi and Kerri Barella of the Marlborough Independent Party Slate Committee (IPSC) will be at the Marlborough Bakery on Saturday, April 22, from 8:30-11 a.m., to talk to any residents interested in learning more about the committee. Light refreshments will be served.

The IPSC is also looking for community members interested in filling open slots on its ballot in the November election.

**MES Art Show Coming Soon**

The Marlborough Elementary School Student Art Show will be held Tuesday, May 16, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the school's community room – and student submissions are welcome.

This evening of creativity will showcase artwork from children in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. All students will have at least one piece of art displayed in the show.

All current MES students are invited to submit an additional piece of work created outside of school. To enter an additional piece of work, please complete and return the Art Show entry form by Friday, May 5. (The artwork itself will be collected at a later date.)

For more information, email [knd9@com-cast.net](mailto:knd9@com-cast.net).

**Local Artwork on Display**

Local painter Roy Wrenn and local sculptor Neal Alderman are among the artists currently exhibiting their works at Marlborough Town Hall, 26 N. Main St.

The work will be on display through June.

**Lions Club Raffling Kayak**

The Marlborough Lions are raffling off a 10-foot Ascend kayak with paddle and a one-year rental of a kayak rack at Marlborough's Blish Park. Note that use of the rack at Blish Park is limited to Marlborough residents, but the raffle for the kayak is open to everyone.

Raffle tickets are \$20 each. Tickets will be sold at various locations through May 28 or can be purchased from Marlborough Lions Club mem-

bers. Proceeds will support the Lions.

The raffle drawing will take place at Blish Park Sunday, May 28. Winners need not be present.

For more information or to purchase raffle tickets, call Lions Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537, or Lions Jean Paul Bolduc at 860-798-2054 or Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

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### 'Breaking Free from Routine'

The Marlborough Lions will host Daniel Blanchard as a guest speaker Tuesday, April 25, at 7 p.m. The presentation will take place in the Marlborough Elementary School library and is entitled "Breaking Free from Routine: How to Live a More Exciting Life."

Blanchard is a Junior Olympian wrestler and veteran of the U.S. Army and Air Force. All are welcome and there is no charge to attend. The Lions Club meeting will start at 6:30 p.m., with Blanchard's presentation commencing at 7 p.m.

For more information, call Lions Club Vice President Kevin McNally at 860-682-3588.

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### Resident Chips In to Lacrosse Win

The Lasell University men's lacrosse team scored a program-record 28 goals in a 28-4 win over Albertus Magnus last Tuesday, April 11 – and a Colchester resident played a role in the victory.

Lasell opened the game up by scoring the first six goals, and Casey Hart of Colchester had an assist on one of them. Hart also had three caused turnovers.

### 'Spring in Bloom' Vendor Fair Coming

Colchester Federated Church's annual 'Spring in Bloom' Vendor Fair is Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the church, 60 Main St. All are invited to attend.

The fair will showcase local crafters, vendors and farmers; there will also be the Up-scale Tag Sale, Bake Sale and Raffle.

### AARP Chapter to Meet

The next meeting of the AARP Colchester Area Chapter 4019 is Tuesday, May 2, at 1:30 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., in the activity room.

Norman Dupuis and Irene Watson will do a presentation about their new book, *The Men Connected to Colchester, Connecticut Who Served During the Civil War*. Anyone who has an interest in Colchester history or the Civil War is invited to attend.

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### Kindergarten Registration

Children who live in town and will be 5 by Jan. 1, 2024, can register for kindergarten for the 2023-24 school year at the Colchester Public Schools website, [www.colchesterct.org](http://www.colchesterct.org). Select the "For Families" tab, and then "Registration and Residency."

Complete and submit the pre-enrollment form and then follow the necessary steps outlined on the website and in the email you receive from the central registrar.

Also, Kindergarten Family Orientation Night will be held Thursday, May 11, in the Colchester Elementary School cafeteria. Families are invited to meet the teachers and learn more about the school.

### Memorial Day Parade Coming May 28

The theme for this year's Memorial Day Parade remembers those who died in the Vietnam War. All marching units and organizations designing floats should try and use the theme in preparing for the parade, which will be on Sunday, May 28.

Applications to join this year's Memorial Day Parade are available online at [www.colchesterct.gov](http://www.colchesterct.gov), and at the first selectman's office in Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. File your application before May 4.

The Parade Committee will award prizes in three categories; 1. Best marching unit, 2. Most patriotic float and 3. Most creative float.

### History Museum Reopens for Season

The Colchester History Museum has reopened for the season – and new this year offers a Scavenger Hunt.

Bring your family or be a solo sleuth to find all 20 of the objects pictured on the hunt card and win a \$5 gift card from Dunkin' Donuts, Mel's Downtown Creamery or The Plum Tomato.

The Colchester History Museum, located at 24 Linwood Ave., is open Sundays from 11

a.m.-2 p.m., until Dec. 3. The museum, adjacent to Cragin Memorial Library, is free and features both permanent and special exhibits all highlighting the people and events in Colchester's history. The museum offers both guided and self-guided tours.

For more information, contact the historical society at [mail@colchesterhistory.org](mailto:mail@colchesterhistory.org) or 860-537-3240.



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# More Potential Banking Concerns Surface

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Education alerted the first selectman and finance director this week of potential banking transitions concerns.

On Monday, school board chairman Alex Oliphant and budget committee chairman Chris Rivers emailed First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos and Finance Director Mary Williamson, outlying serious issues with the town's transition to Dime Bank. The school board finance committee was expected to meet on Wednesday to further evaluate the situation.

"We are worried about the ability to make payroll deadlines this week and the delays associated with paying bills," they wrote in the email.

Earlier this year, the town agreed to transition its finances away from M&T Bank and Dime Bank was selected. The Board of Selectmen approved the transition, and a two-month behind the scenes process began to switch over.

On Monday, April 10, the Board of Education finance department requested that the town finance department wire \$720,000 from the short-term investment fund (STIF) to Dime Bank to allow the board to pay outstanding bills.

The next day, according to the email, a representative from Dime spoke to Suzie Clark, a finance associate for the district, and relayed that the bills couldn't be paid because there wasn't sufficient funding in the account.

That Friday, Clark again made an attempt but the "Positive Play" feature, a safety feature for Dime Bank accounts, was not set up. The email states that the town and board agreed that accounts payable and payroll should be handled with existing M&T accounts and that Williamson told the school board that the funds would be in the M&T account on Monday.

However, on Monday, Clark attempted to pay the outstanding bills but the M&T account had

not been updated since April 10.

"Given the ongoing issues with accounts payable, the Board of Education is concerned about the ability the pay employees this week," they wrote. "To avoid an issue, the Board of Education finance office emailed Mary Williamson this morning to inform her that the Board will need approximately \$1,200,000 in the M&T account by the close of business on Wednesday. As transfers typically take 48 hours to process, this is now a pressing matter."

Williamson sent an email to the boards of education and finance on Monday explaining the situation.

"We made the transfer to M&T Friday when we realized we could upload the [electronic funds transfers] to Dime but not get the checks in Munis printed on that account," she wrote in the email. "As of this morning, that money still hadn't been deposited."

She provided screenshots of the pending transaction, as well.

"So we're trying to balance the different banks and our payments and still figure out why we aren't able to print the checks with the new bank account information," she continued. "At no point has anyone on the BOE side offered to help with this transition in Munis so I'm doing this solo for both sides."

Williamson added, "At any point, we will be able to pay from Dime Bank and will have sur-

plus in M&T so we are trying to mitigate that as much as possible while still trying to make sure we have enough in either bank to make necessary payments."

She told the *Rivereast* that the Wednesday deadline is "arbitrary" and that there is not an actual crisis with any town or school money.

"I'm not sure what the goal of this was," she said, adding that the email sent by the board "created the perception of a situation that was critical."

Williamson said that in her mind, there was "zero communication" to indicate that there was an issue, and that during the bank transition, "we've never had any close calls with payroll."

"From my point of view, the situation had already been resolved," she said.

Up until this point, Williamson said she's had a "workable" relationship with the school finance department.

"I don't know why this couldn't have been communicated," she asserted, saying that she only found out about the development through Bisbikos. "It's startling"

Seeing the emails from the school board has seemingly fractured their relationship moving forward.

"Obviously, I was devastated by that," she said referring to the lack of communication.

## New Finance Employees

During the finance board meeting on Tues-

day, chairman Andrea Migliaccio announced that the town is bringing on two temporarily employees through Robert Half to assist the finance department with the budget audits.

Details regarding the two employees will likely be finalized this week, and their start date will most likely be early next week. The funding source for the new hires will be finalized as well.

The Board of Selectmen was expected to review the request during their meeting on Thursday, after press time.

Finance board member Mike Egan praised the move, saying it "gets us on firm ground moving forward."

Bisbikos said the employees would provide a "boost."

Williamson told the *Rivereast* that the employees would be a "fantastic idea" for the town.

"The audits are too important to not execute flawlessly," she said. "This makes sure it gets the attention it deserves."

Both employees are expected to serve in the finance office for two months.

Williamson currently has one other employee, an accountant, working in her office. She expressed that her department has been continuously understaffed.

"It's more than my pride, we just need the help," she said.

In addition, a permanent finance employee is expected to join the department in May.

## Missing Students for Class of '73 Reunion

The Bacon Academy Class of 1973 will be holding their class reunion on June 17 in Colchester - and the committee is looking for the following classmates:

Charles Arnold, Dina Bienvenue, Geraldine Ford, Robert Giguere, Diana Hula, Donald Hutchins, Charles Lankford, Lenny Martin, Phylis Medbery, Debra Skut, Donald Smith and Wayne Zielinski.

If you have any information regarding these people or you are on the list, please provide an email address and/or home address to [baconacademy73@gmail.com](mailto:baconacademy73@gmail.com).

## Local Realtor Joins CBA Board of Directors

The Colchester Business Association (CBA) has announced the addition of local realtor Catherine McNarry to their Board of Directors.

McNarry grew up in Canada and moved to Connecticut in 1996, where she is celebrating 25 years in the real estate business and is currently employed by Carl Guild & Associates.

The CBA provides support and assistance to local businesses through dinner meetings and programs, public relations and community events and proudly supports and organizes local scholarships, the annual Colchester on the Green event, the scarecrow decorating contest, a holiday dinner auction and more.

To learn more about the CBA, visit [www.ColchesterCBA.com](http://www.ColchesterCBA.com).



## Abundant Life Church News & Notes

Abundant Life Church, a Christ-follower church that believes salvation through Jesus Christ, is located at 85 Skinner Rd. For more information, call 860-537-3082 or visit [AbundantL.com](http://AbundantL.com).

**Sunday Services:** Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. There is also Children's Church available for ages 4-11. All are welcome. The main service

is also broadcast live each week on Facebook. Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT](http://www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT) or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

**Power of Prayer:** If in need of prayer, call the church to be placed on the prayer list. You may also ask about the various days and times the prayer groups meet and come at that time.

## Understanding Your Utilities

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) will offer a program on Connecticut's utilities Thursday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m., at Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave.

Marissa Paslick Gillett, chairman of PURA, will discuss what the authority regulates, your monthly electric bills, and information about selecting a third-party supplier.

Registration is required for this free program and opens May 1; call 860-537-3911 to register.

## Ahavath Achim News

Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., has announced the following schedule for the next week:

Tuesday, Talmud class, 6:30 p.m.; Friday night service, 7 p.m., Zoom from Congregation Beth El; Shabbat morning service, 10 a.m., hybrid in-person and via Zoom.

There are daily Facebook Live classes on Ken Alter's Facebook page. Also on the page: "Ask the Rabbi" and the Positive Affirmation of the Day.

For more information, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Honors List

The following Colchester residents made the fall 2022 Honors List at Husson University in Bangor, Maine:

Erin Holt, who is enrolled in Husson's Doctor of Physical Therapy/Bachelor of Science in exercise science program; Logan Hubbard, who is enrolled in Husson's Bachelor of Science in extended reality program; Hailynn Kane, who is enrolled in Husson's Bachelor of Science in nursing program.

## Polka Dinner Dance

The St. Joseph's Polish Society, located at 395 South Main St., will host a Polka Dinner Dance Sunday, May 7.

Dinner will be served at 1 p.m., and includes choice of chicken marsala or pork roast with rice, roasted vegetables, coleslaw and a roll with butter. Dennis Poliski and the Maestro's Men will play from 2-6 p.m.

Advanced tickets only. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased at the club. Call 860-537-2550 for more information.

## Shredding Old Tax and Personal Records

Residents and businesses of Colchester and area towns can safely shred their old financial, medical and personal records on Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Town Hall parking lot 127 Norwich Ave. Boy Scout Troop 72 will have the certified shredding company File Shred performing the shredding.

Cost is \$5 for a bag the size of a plastic grocery bag and \$10 for a box the size of a case of copy paper. A bulk price can be negotiated for larger quantities of records.

Troop 72 will also accept recyclable cans and bottles at this time.

Funds raised will be used to help Troop 72 continue to award summer camp scholarships, take trips, and maintain the outdoor program. Contact Al Letendre at [letendrej@sb-global.net](mailto:letendrej@sb-global.net) for more information.

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### Project Graduation Trivia Night Fundraiser

All are welcome to join in a Trivia Night fundraiser on Friday, April 28, at the Polish Club. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the game begins at 7:30 p.m. The game will be MCed by Bacon Academy's Assistant Principal "Mr. Mal," and will be a night of prizes, raffles and trivia facts. Tickets are \$20 per person, with tables seating up to 10.

Registration and more information is available on our website: [baconacademyprojectgrad.org](http://baconacademyprojectgrad.org).

grad.org.

The mission of Bacon Academy Project Graduation is to enhance drug and alcohol-free awareness by providing safe and healthy graduation events for all graduating seniors of Bacon Academy, Colchester. All of the events Project Graduation will conduct are entirely paid for through the fundraising efforts and contributions of Bacon Academy parents, students and community members.

### Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel, located at 392 S. Main St., holds worship in person at 10 a.m. Sundays. Follow the church on Facebook for the livestream. For more information, call Pastor Don Rivers – the church's bi-vocational pastor, who also serves as president for "Racing with Jesus, Inc." – at 860-398-9119 or visit [christianlifechapel.org](http://christianlifechapel.org).

**Weekly Schedule:** Bible Study for Men: Mon-

days at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 a.m.; Bible Study for women: Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; Community Bible Study and Prayer: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; Fridays: Donuts with Don at 10 a.m. -- this is an open discussion on how God fits in your life.

**Vacation Bible School:** Monday-Wednesday, July 24-26, from 9 a.m.-noon. Contact the church for more information.

### Upcoming Programs at Cragin Library

Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., has announced the following. For more information, visit [www.colchesterct.gov/library](http://www.colchesterct.gov/library). The library can be reached at 860-537-5752.

**Rainbow Popsicle Craft:** Saturday, April 22, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Cragin Book Club:** Monday, April 24, 6 p.m. *The Last Checkmate* by Gabriella Saab will be

discussed. Stop by the adult circulation desk for a copy.

**Mushroom Identification for Beginners:** Thursday, April 27, 5:30 p.m. Karen Monger of the 3 Foragers will discuss which mushrooms are safe to eat and which ones you should avoid.

**Dried Flower Bookmarks Craft:** Saturday, April 29, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

### Colchester Giving Garden

The Colchester Giving Garden is starting its 2023 season and is always happy to welcome new volunteers. The garden is an all volunteer-run vegetable garden that grows and donates fresh produce to those in need through food banks and area soup kitchens.

The garden is located behind the Colchester Senior Center at 95 Norwich Ave. and will have a work time starting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22 – Earth Day. All are welcome; no gardening experience is necessary. There will be tools

available. Please wear closed-in shoes or boots; no sandals or flip-flops.

The garden will start its Tuesday night work time next week, on April 25, and continue through October at 5 p.m. There will sometimes be another work day during the week when the garden is producing at top speed.

For more information or to be on the Giving Garden's email information list, write to [colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com](mailto:colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com) or check Colchester Giving Garden out on Facebook.

### Spring Baseball, Softball Registration

Registration for Colchester spring baseball and softball teams is at [www.cbsl.org](http://www.cbsl.org). Registration closes April 30.

Anyone interested in coaching should sign up for that volunteer role when registering a player. People can also volunteer for any of the different volunteer roles via the "volunteer opportunities" tab on the website as well.

### Project Graduation Trivia Night Fundraiser

Project Graduation will hold a Trivia Night fundraiser Friday, April 28, at St. Joseph's Polish Club. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the game begins at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$20/person, with tables seating up to 10. Register at [baconacademyprojectgrad.org](http://baconacademyprojectgrad.org).

### Incoming Kindergarten Story Time

Colchester Elementary School will host Kindergarten Story Time Tuesdays, April 25 and May 9, for 4- and 5-year-old Colchester children who will enter kindergarten during the 2023-24 school year.

The sessions will run from 11:10-11:40 a.m., in the CES media center. Children will listen to books read by kindergarten teachers, while parents learn about Colchester's kindergarten program.

Topics for parent information change each session. No pre-registration is required. CES is located at 315 Halls Hill Rd.

### Vendors Wanted

The Colchester Dog Park Committee is looking for vendors that sell-dog related items for its ninth annual "Spring Bark for the Park."

The event will be held on the Town Green on Sunday, May 21, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendor slots are available at \$40 per booth. There is no charge for nonprofit organizations.

Email [tagnobark@gmail.com](mailto:tagnobark@gmail.com) for more information.

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### Thanksgiving in April?

A turkey dinner with all the trimmings will be served at Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., on Saturday, April 29, from 4-6 p.m.

Served will be roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, squash, stuffing, cranberry sauce, rolls and dessert, for \$15 per dinner. The meal is drive-thru only, and is first-come, first-served. All proceeds benefit the church.



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### From the Superintendent's Desk...

On April 20, 1999, I was a teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Indio, Calif. At some point that morning, word spread about a school shooting in Littleton, Colo. During lunch, my colleagues and I watched the news coverage with sadness in our hearts and a realization that violence like that could occur anywhere, at any time.

At the beginning of that day, few if any of us had ever heard of Columbine High School.

Now, almost all of us hear Columbine and know that's the school where two student gunmen killed 13 people and wounded 20 others.

To be clear, Columbine wasn't the first mass shooting in a school. At training exercises, law enforcement officials often reference a school shooting in 1998 in Jonesboro, Ark., where four students and one teacher were killed, and 10 others were wounded by students hiding in the woods outside Westside Middle School during a false fire alarm. Truth be told, that wasn't the first school shooting either, but there is no denying that this type of violence has plagued our schools for at least 25 years.

As an educator, I've had a front-row seat to the changes in school facilities and operations. At the beginning of my career, the goal was to create the most welcoming environment possible. Front doors were unlocked from early in the morning until late in the afternoon. Schools were built with large lobbies that served as a gathering place for students before and after school, and for parents at evening events.

Now doors are locked, and double buzzer entry with a "man trap" is a standard for new school construction. In many cases, schools will also have a drop-off window to minimize the access of parents and the public to our schools. This "new normal" isn't welcoming but it serves an important purpose.

In Connecticut, all school districts are required to submit an "All-Hazards Safety and Security Plan" to the Department of Emergency Management on an annual basis. Districts hold a combination of 10 or more fire drills and crisis response drills throughout the year. In addition, school districts are required to conduct an audit/vulnerability assessment every two years. The feedback from these assessments is extremely helpful in improving our safety and security profile. Bottom line, school administrators and teachers have many responsibilities, but our top priority is the health and safety of our students.

Currently, a Connecticut company is conducting the vulnerability assessment in the Colchester schools. The assessment includes scheduled and unscheduled visits to our schools, and meetings with our director of facilities and operations and the school resource officer. The company will also review our district and school safety plans and procedures. The final recommendations will be shared with the Board of Education later this spring.

Despite an intense focus on school safety, students and staff still enter school each day with the hope that they will never hear this message over the public address system: "Lockdown, this is not a drill, Lockdown!" As parents and community members, I'm confident that you feel the same way.

Daniel Sullivan III, Colchester Superintendent of Schools

### Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., has announced the following. For full descriptions, call 860-537-3911, email [csc@colchesterct.gov](mailto:csc@colchesterct.gov), or visit [www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center](http://www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center).

**Monday, April 24:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Stitch & Fit; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjongg; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge.

**Tuesday, April 25:** 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Inspired by Art Series - Matisse; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, In the Know; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC Meeting.

**Wednesday, April 26:** 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 1:15 p.m., Across the Ages at William J. Johnston Middle School; 1-2:30 p.m., Life Review Journaling.

**Thursday, April 27:** 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3:30 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling with Ellen; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

**Friday, April 28:** Senior center closed for

**programs and transportation; 10 a.m.,** Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Event, by invite only **Saturday, April 30:** 10:30 a.m., Thomaston Opera House trip departs from Colchester Senior Center (bus will arrive in front of the building).

**Survivors of Stroke (SOS) Support Camp:** Wednesdays, May 3, June 7, July 5, 1-3 p.m. Offered in collaboration with Hartford Healthcare. Stroke survivors and their families will learn about stroke prevention, education, socialization, and community resources. To register, contact stroke nurse navigator Maureen Hahn at 860-823-6324 or [Maureen.Hahn@hhhealth.org](mailto:Maureen.Hahn@hhhealth.org).

**Hearing Screenings:** Friday, May 5, 10:30 a.m. Dr. Matthew Cross from HearUSA of Glastonbury will be at the center; call 860-537-3911 to make an appointment.

**Coffee with the Commission on Aging:** Monday, May 15, 10 a.m. Join the senior center for free refreshments and an informative introduction to the Colchester Commission on Aging. Registration will begin in May.

### Parks & Rec News & Notes

Colchester Parks and Recreation has announced the following programs and events. Registration required unless noted. For full descriptions and to register, visit [www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department](http://www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department). Parks and Rec. can also be reached at 860-537-7297 or at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

**Annual Spring Clean-Up:** Saturday, April 22 (rain date April 29), at 8 a.m., on the Town Green. Locations include the schools, town buildings and parks. Meet up at noon at Mel's Downtown Ice Cream for a free ice cream as a thank you.

**Puzzlepalooza:** Friday, April 28, 6 p.m., at Town Hall. Register as a team of up to four, or individually (you will be put with others), and the first team to complete a select puzzle wins a prize. Bring your own snacks. Cost is \$25 per team.

**Touch-A-Truck:** Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., on the Town Green. There will be kids' activities, games, and trucks. To participate with your vehicle, call the office.

**Food Festival on the Green:** Sunday, May 6 (rain date May 7), on the Town Green. Follow the event on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FOODIEAFF](http://www.facebook.com/FOODIEAFF).

**Tennis Lessons:** Mondays, May 1-May 22; make-up date: June 5. Ages 5-7 are 3:45-4:30 p.m., and \$65/session; and ages 8-12 are 4:30-5:30 p.m., and \$85/session.

**Gentle Yoga:** Online with Facebook Live. For ages 45 and older. The four-week classes are held Mondays from 4:45-5:45 p.m. Choose May 1-June 5 (no class May 15 or 29), June 12-July 17 (no class June 19 or July 3), or July 24-Aug. 14. Cost per four-week session: \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents.

### Upcoming Land Trust Events

The Colchester Land Trust has announced the following upcoming events:

**Hike-and-Seek for Families:** Sunday, May 7, 11 a.m., at Bulkeley Hill Preserve. Colchester Land Trust and C3 will join up to offer this free family hike. Pick up your hike-and-seek card to see what you can find along the path. The trails have mild inclines and can be rough, so the hike is not stroller friendly. Call Cindy at 860-267-7901 for directions and more information.

**Intro to Geocaching:** Saturday, May 20, 11 a.m. Experienced geocaching team Joe and Joni Aveni, a.k.a. AlphaDog (a geocacher handle),

will show people how to place and find beginner caches and explain why thousands join in this worldwide scavenger hunt.

**Presentation on Bluebirds, Backyard Habitats:** Wednesday, May 24, 6 p.m., at Cragin Memorial Library, Norton Room A. Connecticut Audubon Society's RTP Estuary Center's Conservation & Education Coordinator Joe Attwater will teach people how they can attract bluebirds, sparrows, warblers and more, as well as which bird species are likely to visit at this time of year.

### Colchester Federated Church News

Colchester Federated Church is an Open and Affirming church located at 60 Main St. Pastor is the Rev. Lauren Ostrout. The church office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The office can be reached at 860-537-5189 or [cfc06415@gmail.com](mailto:cfc06415@gmail.com).

Worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m. For those wishing to worship from home, the service will be broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday at 9 a.m. Worship videos are at [www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org](http://www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org) under the Worship tab. Updated information is also on the church's Facebook page.

**Sunday School:** Sunday School is held during

worship from September through June. Children in grades pre-K through 8 are welcome. The nursery is located just off the sanctuary. Visit the church website for more information and to register youth for Sunday School.

**Twelve-Step Meetings:** AA meets in the church library Monday-Wednesday and Friday at noon and Thursday at 10 a.m., and at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. On Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., Al-Anon meets in the Jerusalem Room and AA meets in the Stage Room.

**Boy Scout Troop 72:** Meetings are held in the Stage Room every Monday at 7 p.m.

### Choir and Orchestra Seeks Members

The Colchester Choir and Orchestra rehearses Thursdays at Bacon Academy. New members are welcome.

Rehearsals are for CCO's spring concert on May 20. Seats are open in both choir and orchestra. Choir rehearses in the choir room from 6-7:30 p.m. Orchestra rehearses in the band room from 7:30-9 p.m.; come at 7 p.m. to warm up.

For more information, visit [colchesterchoirorchestra.org](http://colchesterchoirorchestra.org), like the group on Facebook, or email [colchesterchoirorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:colchesterchoirorchestra@gmail.com). Half-year registration is at [tinyurl.com/4ysam6sw](http://tinyurl.com/4ysam6sw).

### Guardian Angels Parish Offering Italy Trip

Guardian Angels Parish - which encompasses St. Andrew Church in Colchester and St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lebanon - is making a pilgrimage to Italy from Oct. 30-Nov. 9.

The Rev. Richard Breton will lead pilgrims through Florence, Assisi, Sorrento, Amalfi Coast, Pompeii and Monte Cassino, ending in Rome. The trip will include an audience with Pope Francis.

Cost is \$3,479, and the trip departs from New York. All admissions, fees and hotel services are included.

For more information, contact Angela Corentin at 860-402-8316 or [acorentin1219@gmail.com](mailto:acorentin1219@gmail.com).



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## With Authentic Food, D'eliana Preserves Culture

By Jack Lakowsky

After a year in business, East Hampton deli and restaurant D'eliana Public Market, Deli and Catering has really set itself apart. How? Simply.

Owners George and Lauren Miklos had long dreamed of opening a restaurant, anything from a bar and grill to a breakfast joint. They had secure, decent jobs though, and didn't want to chance that for a risky venture like starting a small business.

But the choice was kinda made for them – the pandemic hit, and both got laid off.

"We looked at each other and though this is our chance," Lauren told the *RiverEast* this week.

The building became available and, after buying it and going through the town, the couple opened their very first business. Among other things, they wanted to bring authentic cuisine to the small-town scene, to show true-blue Italian cooking to a new generation that, let's face it, just doesn't cook as much anymore, showing them their parents' and grandparent's specialties.

Growing up Italian, the two draw on their childhood and, more recently, a trip to Italy that was, to put lightly, inspiring. They toured the country, eating some of the best food they've ever had, often with just a few, easily gotten ingredients – sometimes just pasta and parmesan.

This speaks volumes considering their pal-

ates. Both are kitchen veterans. For his part, George has been cooking for 45 years, working in New York and as an executive chef at the Greenwich Hyatt.

To wake up everyday as their own bosses? Amazing, they said.

"It came out just like I pictured it," said George. "It's so great, the town's been great, business has been great. We have so many regulars now."

It feels a little corny but, Lauren said, a lot of customers have become like family.

And family is foundational to D'eliana, kind of literally – for months the couple were indecisive about what to call the place.

All they had to do was remember how in love they are with their granddaughter, Eliana, their first grandkid. (Another one's on the way!)

One day George went ahead and wrote the name down on a napkin for whatever reason, and then put a "D" in front of it.

Lauren's father, in his 80s, is highly active in the restaurant, and customers know how expertly he fills cannoli.

The restaurant brands itself as a public market – an homage to an Italian market of Lauren's childhood in Middletown. George grew up in Fairfield, near its section of renowned Italian restaurants.

"We love that people feel that way when they come here," said George. They've also do it big

on holidays, serving traditional Christmas and Easter meals. On Easter, he said, "we sold out of everything," and has to order double for next year.

They're as in love with Eliana as they are with each other, joking that, after working together so much, they still laugh together every single day.

They get in with the community too, holding drives for local teachers and nearly 20 local organizations, including a highly successful fundraiser for the families of the two Bristol officers killed in a premeditated attack.

"People would just slap a \$50 on the counter," said Lauren. "It was awesome."

They agreed, if you want to see D'eliana's specialty, get the porchetta, the only truly authentic one in the state. It consistently blows people away.

Another very fun foodie thing – George bought a huge wheel of parmesan, aged it a year, diligently rubbing it in olive oil every other day. Then, when it was deep enough, he served pasta right out of it.

And to boot, they've got grab-and-go meals, stuffed breads, Piedmontese beef and desserts, and they just started serving breakfast sandwiches and, in the near future, they plan to bring on outdoor seating, online ordering and catering.



**Chef and new businessowner George Miklos, along with his wife and fellow owner Lauren, have enjoyed a strong first year serving Belltown legit, delicious Italian food.**



**Students Daniella Garcia and Ella Conforto share a scene as Flounder and Ariel during rehearsal of the upcoming *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, opening Thursday, May 4.**

### Center School to Present *Little Mermaid Jr.*

By Matt Engelhardt

From May 4-6, Center School invites the community to join its students in an adventure "Under the Sea" as the school presents its version of a Disney classic.

The *Little Mermaid Jr.* will reunite the audience with favorite characters like Ariel, Prince Eric, Sebastian, Scuttle, Flounder, King Triton, and the fiendish Ursula. The musical is a familiar adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story, with a few new songs and other surprises.

The production features 4th and 5th grade performers under the guidance of first-time director Karen Wanat. The challenge for the students is bigger than last year, when Center School presented the kids' version of Disney's *Aladdin*. The *Little Mermaid Jr.* is intended to be performed by an older cast, typically middle schoolers.

"It has been so much fun working with all the students, highlighting their personalities and abilities, as they adapt to their characters," Wanat said. "I cannot wait for them to share their talents on stage. This is such a fun show, and these kids are going to blow the audience away with their performances! They have stepped up to the challenge of the more difficult production and I could not be more proud of them."

It's an ideal time to be performing a version of *The Little Mermaid*. A much-anticipated live action film is set to hit movie theaters at the end of May. The song catalog, from "Part of Your World" to "Poor Unfortunate Souls," remains as popular with millennial and Gen X parents as it is with their children.

Wanat said the show features wonderful char-

acters, including an iconic villain in Ursula, the jealous sea witch who makes a pact with the title mermaid. Center School's version of Ursula is played by fifth-grader Alexa Colwell, who is looking forward to making her stage debut.

"I really like the character," Colwell said. "She has all these really fun songs and lines and I think that's really cool, and she always has Flotsam and Jetsam by her side."

Fifth-grader Ella Conforto plays the main stage role of Ariel, calling the mermaid one of her favorite Disney princesses.

"I like how she's courageous and not afraid to after what she wants," Conforto said. "The best part is probably just being with all my friends and having a good time."

The East Hampton community has been very supportive of the production, Wanat said. The cast was fortunate to receive costumes from the high school, which had planned to put on the full version of the show prior to the pandemic. In addition to the costumes from the high school, there have been generous supply donations such as paint and crafts.

The majority of production costs are related to lighting and sound. While the high school and middle school have upgraded their systems, Center School needs to pay rental fees to light the gymnasium stage effectively and provide adequate sound for the production, Wanat said. She hopes the school can use profits from the performances to upgrade technology and mitigate costs for future productions.

The *Little Mermaid Jr.* runs for four performances: Thursday, May 4 at 7 p.m.; Friday, May 5 at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, May 6 at noon and 5 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and sellouts are expected, so it is advised to purchase in advance.

To purchase tickets, reserve a program ad, or donate to the production, visit [www.ehept.com/play.html](http://www.ehept.com/play.html).

*Note: Matt Engelhardt is an East Hampton resident and parent.*

### Epoch Arts Dinnershow

For the first time since before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Epoch Arts is bringing back its Dinnershow Saturday, April 22, from 6-8 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St.

The cast of the original play *Voyagers* will serve a pasta dinner with bread and salad. Then eat a variety of desserts as they perform in skits, improv, musical numbers – and Wackadoodles! Random acts are called out by the Dinnershow MC, and the cast has to

scramble to put on their costumes and perform on the spot.

Dinnershow is a fundraiser for the original two-act play *Voyagers*, which will be performed June 9, 10 and 11.

Tickets for Dinnershow are \$12 each and reservations are recommended. For reservations – or if interested in sponsoring a skit for \$25 – email [elizabeth@epocharts.org](mailto:elizabeth@epocharts.org).

### Seeds of Hope 5K/10K/Fun Walk

The Congregational Church of East Hampton mission group, Seeds of Hope, will hold its annual 5K/10K/Fun Walk on Saturday April 29. Register at [firstmile-fitness.com](http://firstmile-fitness.com) or in person the day of the race.

On race day, pick up your race bag beginning at 7:30 a.m., at the church, 59 Main St. The race will begin at 9 a.m. at the entrance to the Air Line Trail located at Cranberry Bog on Smith Street. Transportation will be provided to and

from the trail head. All participants must park at the church. Awards will follow the race, at the church.

All proceeds from the race will help to defray out-of-pocket costs for Seeds of Hope members when they are able to make their next mission trip. For more information or to register, go to [firstmile-fitness.com](http://firstmile-fitness.com) or contact Lisa at 860-918-1170.

### Middle Haddam Public Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, has announced the following. To register or more information on any program, email [middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com), visit [middlehaddamlibrary.com](http://middlehaddamlibrary.com) or call 860-267-9093. The library has a new P.O. box number: 123.

**Library Hours:** Monday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 3-6 p.m.

**Yoga: With Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga.** Mondays at 9 a.m. and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. No Saturday classes until summer. Cost is a \$10 drop-in fee. Register at [tensummitst@gmail.com](mailto:tensummitst@gmail.com).

**Mahjong:** Mondays at 10:30am. A spirited group of players; experienced to brand new. Join the fun!

**Spinning Fibers:** Thursdays at 10 a.m. Bring your own wheel and fiber. All are welcome.

**CommuniTea:** Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m.-noon. Take out a book and have a cup of tea. Coffee drinkers welcome.

**Writer's Workshop/Meet-Up Group:** Wednesday, May 24, 7-8:30 p.m. There will be constructive criticism, writing exercises and more. Get the opinion of other writers. Registration requested.

### Belltown Antique Engine & Tractor Meet

The Belltown Antique Car Club will host its 48th annual Antique Engine & Tractor Meet Sunday, April 30, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Fireman's Field at Salmon River State Park, across from the Comstock covered bridge.

Note: This year's show is being held "rain or shine" on a "field conditions permitting" basis. Rain prior to or on the day of the show may cause cancellation.

On display will be an assortment of antique stationary engines, as well as working scale reproductions, of the types that once powered early farm equipment, sawmills, lathes and even washing machines. Vintage farm tractors will also be exhibited, many of which have been restored. Judging begins at noon and trophies will be awarded at 3 p.m.

Also included in the show is a flea market with vendors offering antique engine, tractor and vehicle parts, used power equipment for home/farm use, and tools.

Food will be available, provided by the East Hampton Lions Club.

Admission for exhibitors, vendors and the general public is free, though contributions are accepted. Spectator parking is free. Please, no bicycles or pets.

For more information visit [www.belltown-antiquecarclub.org](http://www.belltown-antiquecarclub.org). Interested exhibitors or vendors should call Mark Hoydilla at 203-980-1748, Peter Christianson at 860-510-3340 or Jim Way at 860-319-6088, or email [belltowncarclub@gmail.com](mailto:belltowncarclub@gmail.com).

### Project Grad Spring Cleaning

East Hampton High School Project Graduation is hosting a Spring Cleaning with the thrift store Savers. Project Grad is collecting items for resale.

Collection days are Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m.-noon, and Saturday, May 6, from 9-11 a.m. Both collection days will be at Global Self Storage, 265 W. High St.

Acceptable items include: clothing, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, ties, belts,

backpacks, bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces, hand-held appliances, home decorative items, toys, games, and small electronics.

Please use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly-packed boxes for small household goods.

No large items and no furniture. All items must be clean and in sellable condition.

### Run for Fun Challenge

East Hampton Parks and Recreation will hold the Junior Bellringers' Run for Fun Challenge Tuesdays, April 25-May 16, 6-6:45 p.m., at the East Hampton High School track. Fee: \$60.



# A Series of 'Unfortunate' Budget Cuts

By Jack Lakowsky

In response to a nearly \$800,000 budget cut by the local Board of Finance, superintendent Paul Smith released a draft list of what might be on the chopping block.

Smith called the list one of "unfortunate recommendations," that affects every school in the district.

About a fourth of that cut, \$200,000, is from unexpected savings in insurance costs.

Now Smith is proposing how to meet the rest of the cut; mostly, this means laying off teachers and staff. Decisions about what to hack off the budget ultimately rest with the school board.

First on Smith's hit list are two Memorial school teachers, putting two grade levels at as many as 26 students. Schools generally aim to minimize class sizes. It's better for learning, especially for students that need extra help.

One Center School teacher is also eyed to lose their job, as is another teacher or staff position that has yet to be unidentified.

A few possible cuts for East Hampton High School include a teacher, a math specialist and a psychologist the middle and high school share.

All this, including some cuts to classroom supplies and extracurriculars, and still the superintendent and the board have to find as much as \$190,000 more in reductions.

In his newsletter to the community Smith urged people to attend the April 25 Town Council meeting, when the town and school budgets will be reviewed.

Smith also wrote the district's goal was to keep class sizes the same next school year, a goal that may not be attainable now.

Smith emphasized that neither he nor the board requested new staff except for a grant-funded psychologist.

Now Smith will have to 5 or more teachers, a move that will bring the schools back down to the same number as when, some years ago, a Republican-majority town council cut teachers. Two years ago a Democratic-led council restored the positions, after much lobbying by the parents and school staff.

In a Board of Finance meeting Monday, board Democrat Ted Turner decried the finance board's decision, saying the last few years have been "hell for teachers and students," and that the district needs to extra hands to catch up. He said the kids haven't recovered, and that the superintendent was clear he carried over last year's budget with this year's inflationary prices.

Finance board vice chair Alannah Coshow said there are a lot of unanswered questions and wishes the school board had been more "forthcoming."

Board chair and Republican Bridget McLennan, in a similar sentiment expressed in a *Rivereast* letter a while back by Town Council Republican Allison Walck, questioned why if things are so tough for students, why are so many Belltown kids on the honor roll?

Another opponent was Richard Brown, who

asked "Why aren't the teachers doing their jobs?"

He went on. "Why are math and reading scores going down? Shouldn't they be up?"

Board Republican Russell Bonaccorso said he's not "criticizing" superintendent Smith, there's just a difference in who the two serve. The finance board, he said, has to consider everyone in town, not just students and their families.

"We have to balance it out," he said. "The money comes from somewhere. We don't have this money locked away, refusing to share."

Board members pointed out that characterizing the move as parsimonious isn't fair, that the district's still getting an increase, and that "not long ago" school boards were asking for mere 1% increases.

Both finance and school board members have complained about unfunded state mandates but are approaching them in different ways – the school board tackling them, the finance board saying it would rather "stand" against them by not funding them locally.

The *Rivereast* and superintendent Smith were unable to coordinate an interview before press time.

The cut surprised Smith. "This is the first I heard about it," he said.

School board chair and Independent Christi-

na Tammaro-Dzagan also said the cut came as a surprise, and that it was done out of misdirected anger. It's the state's underfunded mandates that the finance board should be frustrated with, not the local schools.

"We have to comply with mandates, and we have to provide services the students need," said Tammaro-Dzagan last week.

The Republicans currently seated on the council and the finance board, she said, have proven to opponents of local schools and local public safety. Morally and politically, she said she couldn't align with the local GOP on these issues.

"Additionally, the lack of BOF questions during budget workshops shows a lack of engagement," she told the *Rivereast* in an email. "That's why I was most surprised by the large reduction. One thing has been made clear: there is complete disregard for the students in the district when it comes to the Board of Finance."

"It's a sad day for East Hampton's students who are still recovering from the loss of learning imposed by the overarching COVID restrictions," she said. "Our only hope is the town council will choose to do the right thing this year and restore the education funds."

## RTC Trade Scholarship

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee is accepting scholarship applications for its inaugural Trade Scholarship. This \$500 scholarship will be awarded to any East Hampton High School senior who is planning on pursuing a career in a trade.

Applications may be obtained from the East Hampton High School guidance department and are due by April 28.

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church holds services Sundays at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome. The church is located at 1 East High St. Bible study is Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall Lounge.

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St, has announced the following. Registration required unless noted; to register, or for full program descriptions, call 860-267-6621 or visit us at [easthamptonpubliclibrary.org](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org), or on Facebook at [facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary](https://facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary)

**Library Hours:** The library is open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**All Ages Book Bingo!** Tuesday, April 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Win free books. Refreshments provided.

**Children's Programs: Storytimes:** Toddler Time: Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. for children ages 18 months to 3 years, Stories & Songs: Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m. for ages 3-5 years, Mindful Movements: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Held in the library community room. For ages 18 months and up; siblings welcome, Baby Rhyme Time: Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. For children ages 0-18 months and their caregivers. Held in the library community room.

**Nintendo Switch Tournament:** Saturday, April 22, 2-3:30 p.m., for grades 1-5. This month's game is *Mario Strikers*. All skill levels welcome.

**Family Story Time:** Saturday, April 29, 2-3:30 p.m., for ages 3-5. There will be songs, dancing, and stories. Siblings welcome.

**Hatch the Chicken!** Through a partnership with Hatch the Chicken, the library is incubating seven live chicken eggs, beginning Tuesday, May 2. Stop by to see them and hopefully catch

a glimpse of them hatching sometime around May 23. Then visit the baby chicks before they go back to the farm on June 6.

**DIY Days - Light Up Fireflies:** Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Children and families in grades K-8 are invited to create a different toy, game or treat together. No registration required; just drop in. Available while supplies last.

**Teen Programs: Teen Friday:** Friday, April 21, 3:30-4:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. Kick off your weekend with a craft.

**Teen Creative Writing Workshop:** Wednesday, April 26, 5:30-7:30 p.m., for grades 6-12.

**Teen Cookbook Club - Breakfast is Served!:** Saturday, April 29, 1 p.m., for grades 6-12. Make your favorite breakfast recipe and bring it to the library ready to share. The library will supply plates and utensils.

**Nintendo Switch Tournament:** Saturday, April 29, 2-3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. All skill levels welcome.

**Adult Programs: Cookbook Club World Tour:** Tuesday, May 2, 6:30 p.m. Bring a Mexican-themed dish and copies of the recipe to share.

**Why Scare Tactics Don't Work:** Monday, May 8, 5 p.m., presented by Youth & Family Services. Parents and caregivers are invited to learn a different way to communicate with their kids, while avoiding scare tactics.

**LibraYoga with Amie Meacham:** Tuesday, May 9, 6:30 p.m. All levels welcome.

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## Lions Club Offering Scholarships

The East Hampton Lions Club is offering graduating high school seniors who live in town the chance to apply for four \$1,000 scholarships.

Those planning to attend any accredited college, university or trade school are welcome to apply. It doesn't matter if the student attends public, private, charter or magnet high school or if they are home-schooled.

Applications are available at the East Hampton High School guidance office, 15 N. Maple St. Applications are due at the end of April.

# Belltown Motors

## Tire & Service Center

### TEACHING YOUR TEENAGER TO DRIVE?

From your friends at Belltown Motors...

As a family owned company and your neighbor, we have all been there — teaching our kids to drive. We would like to share some driving tips for those new drivers, as we are also a collision repair facility and see far too many distracted driver accidents coming in.



### Safety Tips for New Drivers (and all drivers as well!)

- 1) Know Your Vehicle** – Make sure before you drive any vehicle that you are not used to driving that you familiarize yourself with all of the controls. Learn where the signal lights are, and check to make sure that all of the lights are working before heading out, especially if you are going to be driving at night.
- 2) Keep a Safety Kit!** This is a must for every car – make sure that you have a safety kit in your vehicle at all times. There are many things that you should have in your safety kit. You never know when you are going to break down somewhere or have an accident, and if you are not on a highly traveled road, it may be some time before you can get help.
- 3) Pay Attention to All Road Signs** – There are many roads that have different speed limits at different sections of the roads, and this is something that you really need to pay attention to. Also make sure that you pay attention to any other traffic signs you see, and obey all parking signs.
- 4) No Cell Phones While Driving!** Don't use your cell phone while driving. This is dangerous, and even if you think you are the best multi-tasker in the world, there is no way that you can keep your concentration on more than one thing at a time. You need to make sure that all of your concentration is saved for your driving. Not only should you never talk on your cell phone while you are driving, you also need to remember never to send or read text messages while you are driving. There are too many young people killed every year because they looked away to check their messages.
- 5) Pay Attention to Your Driving, Not Your Friends!** Sure, when you have your driver's license, it is great, because you can drive your friends all over the place. Just make sure that you are not too busy talking and having fun with your friends to pay attention to the road ahead of you. Don't play the stereo too loud either. This can be really distracting, and if you are paying attention to a really cool song, you may not be paying enough attention to your driving.

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# As They Age, Seniors Face Expensive Home Renovations

By Jack Lakowsky

To stay in the large single-family homes they've invested time, money and sweat into, seniors have a hard choice of making expensive home renovations or finding a new home, whether their own or in commercial housing.

Many seniors – at least according to 94% of the people that took the East Hampton Commission on Aging's (COA) survey taking the temperature of what local seniors need from the town to comfortably stay local – want to stay in their homes, living as independently as possible. The COA conducted the survey about a year and a half ago.

East Hampton's situation is extra tricky. The town's population is aging, quickly, and there isn't a large senior living facility available to those who want that option, often opting for Manchester or Hebron, and a large majority of its housing stock is large, single-family homes, which can get expensive and inaccessible for seniors.

Not always easy – as people age, their mobility often reduces, and their needs become more nuanced, needs that weren't there when they bought their family home.

The COA quantified local older adult needs and, now, starting with its presentation last week, is showing its plan to boost the town's stock of affordable, accessible homes for seniors, whether by accessory dwelling units (ADUs) or changes to an existing home.

East Hampton zoning official Jeremy DeCarli, working with the COA, went over examples of

the dozens of kinds of renovations a home could need, a process that, based on what DeCarli said, takes money, patience and an eye for detail.

You won't always be able to get done all that you want – homes, often by their own design, have "limits" that need to be known, DeCarli said.

"This is a way to stay at home," said DeCarli, though he said, like all else, the decision often has a lot to do with cost.

Everything – from walkways to doorknobs to ceiling fan pull-strings – has to be taken into question, he explained.

For example, he said, "Old houses are notorious for narrow doorways" too thin for wheelchairs. Decorative throw rugs get to be tripping hazards; stairs, even if just one, can be come impassable; the distance between front door and driveway can become far too long; the twisting of a doorknob can become impossible for people with wrist issues, and they need to be replaced with the lever-style.

"Lots of people have gravel parking," DeCarli said, because aesthetically, gravel's appealing. But, with the way they shift, the rocks can be difficult for anyone with mobility challenges.

"Do you have railings? A covered entry? Which way does the door swing? Could a ramp be installed?" DeCarli asked.

DeCarli said this is work to be done sooner than later – reduced mobility is pretty much an inevitability. DeCarli, using himself as example, said he has to plan for old knee injuries he ex-

pects to flare up in his 60s, decades away for him.

He said toilets are usually too low, and bathrooms too small for wheelchairs. Even the light switches have to be looked at – are they too high?

DeCarli stressed the need for using licensed contractors, that the last thing anyone wants to is have their grab bars rip out of a wall because of a shabby installation.

DeCarli also touched on ADUs. Last year the state made a move to make affordable housing more available in Connecticut, passing a bill that told towns to get 10% of their housing stock to be affordable. Another piece of the bill allowed towns to make ADUs a "by-right" type of housing, rather than having to get a special permit, a longer process that makes applications more vulnerable to denial. Last year the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission opted out of this, and ADUs still need special permits locally. Then-board chair Ray Zatorski pointed out how, to his knowledge, the zoning board has never denied an application for an ADU.

DeCarli said East Hampton's housing regula-

tions are strict, and that the town and relevant boards are looking into ways to make them better.

DeCarli said ADUs are a good way to diversify the town's housing stock, encourage multi-generational living – which can save on child-care costs and keep seniors connected to their families. Loneliness is a chief issue among seniors everywhere, and based on the COA's survey, Belltown old timers are no exception.

And ADUs shouldn't just be relegated to housing gramma and grandpa, lovely as they are; ADUs make a good option for younger people too, whether they live on a family property or rent from a mom-and-pop landlord.

The reverse is also an option – seniors, or whoever wants to, can build a smaller accessory unit and rent out their larger home. There are lot size and other standards to meet. Call the town for more details.

Overall, DeCarli and the town are "working to make things a little easier" to keep local seniors, particularly those that have dedicated decades to their homes, their properties and the whole town, local.

## Police News

4/7/23: Kweku Dougan, 28, of 19 Holly Dr., was issued a summons for reckless driving, East Hampton Police said.

4/10: Heather Salg, 43, of New Haven, was arrested and charged with evading responsibility, failure to drive right and failure to have insurance, police said.

4/11: Bethanne Tolhurst, 40, of Lebanon, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle

with a suspended license, police said.

4/16: Joseph Sustakoski, 58, of no certain address, was issued a summons for driving under suspension, misuse of marker plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

From April 10-16, officers responded to 13 medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and 14 alarms, and made 38 traffic stops, police said.

## Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., announces the following. Registration is required for all programs unless noted; register at myactivecenter.com or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Masks are encouraged, but not required. Visit the senior center online at www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center.

**Lunches:** Served Monday through Friday, to ages 60 and up. Call to reserve a meal or sign up online. Reservations for the next day's meal are due by 11 a.m. the day before. Meals are free; a \$3 donation is requested.

**Weekly Activities: Quilting Group:** Mondays, 9 a.m.; **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m.; **Setback:** Mondays, 1 p.m., and Thursdays, 1:15 p.m.; **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m., in person and via Zoom; **Cross Stitch:** Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. – all levels welcome; **Tap Dance:** Thursdays, 11:15-11:45 a.m.; **Cribbage:** Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. – let the center know in advance if you plan to attend; **Mahjongg:** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon – call also to put your name on a list if interested in learning how to play; **Textile Group:** Fridays, 1 p.m.

**Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts:** There are two groups; one meets Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., and one meets every other Thursday, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Groups meet indoors or via Zoom.

**Art with Karen:** Sunday, April 23, 2-4 p.m. Karen Williams will take people through the beginner steps of creating an acrylic painting. Class cost is \$5 for supplies. Pay Williams the

day of the event.

**Birthday Party:** Monday, April 24, 11 a.m., for all born in January, February, March and April. There will be cupcakes, music and comedy. Guests welcome.

**Ageless Mindful Awareness Techniques:** Monday, April 24, 1 p.m. Techniques engage in healing, self-compassion, and gratitude in a group setting.

**Free Blood Pressure Screening:** Monday, April 24, 12:30-1:30 p.m., at the senior center. Chatham Health sponsors this monthly clinic. Need to monitor your blood pressure? Stop by; no appointment necessary.

**Public Health Awareness Week:** Tuesday, April 25, 10:30 a.m. Stephanie Reyes from Chatham Health will provide a half-hour presentation on the week.

**Trips: Stayin' Alive at the Aqua Turf Club:** See a tribute to the '70s band the Bee Gees. This day trip to Plantsville will be Monday, May 22. Cost is \$116. Coffee and donuts provided upon arrival and a family-style lunch will be served. Call for more information or stop by to pick up a flyer.

**Saratoga:** Aug. 2-3. Cost is \$429/person for a double/triple and \$509/person for a single. Deposit of \$150 is due May 2. Call for more information or stop by to pick up a flyer.

**Volunteer Shopping:** The center has a program where a volunteer will shop for you. Call in your list to 860-267-4426 or email it to Jewing@easthampton.gov. The shopper will call you before the drop-off to let you know the cost of the groceries. You can write out a check for the amount, payable to the Town of East Hampton. The volunteer will drop off the groceries at your door and pick up the check in a prearranged designated spot.

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. in East Hampton, invites all to online or in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger.

**Music Event:** All are invited Sunday, April 23, at 9 a.m., for a music worship event entitled "Hope Resides Here."

**Puppet Ministry:** Each Sunday, the Church's Puppet Ministry features Digger the Dog and some of his friends from Farmer M's Red Barn to help explain the meaning of the message topic.

**Kids Church:** Music and hands-on interactive activities are offered for kids in the Fellowship Hall during the worship service. All are welcome.

**Adult Bible Study:** Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Music Room. The study is on the Book of Revelation.

**Office Info:** The office can be reached at 860-267-2336; hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m.-noon. The church website is at www.hncovenantchurch.org.

## Quilt Show Coming

The Haddam Neck Congregational Church Quilt Show will take place Saturday and Sunday, April 29 and 30, at the church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

The show will feature dozens of handmade quilts, a tea room, and a Bits & Pieces sale of fabric, yarn and notions. Admission is a suggested \$8 donation.

To submit quilts, email mapionzio@comcast.net.

## Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection event Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Clinton Public Works Garage, 117 Nod Rd., Clinton.

The collection is open to residents of the RiverCOG region which includes East Hampton and Portland. No commercial or business waste allowed.

Visit rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste for more information.

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**Garden Club Meets April 24**  
The Monday, April 24, meeting of the Belltown Garden Club will be devoted to spring garden clean-up and maintenance. Meet at 5 p.m. at the Comstock Bridge for clean-up work, and then adjourn to East Hampton Public Library for pizza and the club's business meeting  
All are invited to attend. The East Hampton Belltown Garden Club is a member of Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and National Garden Clubs.  
Call Sue Hewes at 860-575-1349 for more information.

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### Senior Center Transportation Change

There has been a change in the driver hours, due to changing needs. Previously the hours were Monday-Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The new schedule is Monday-Friday from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Occasionally a medical transport can be accommodated, if time is available. Transportation continues to be available for local trips within East Hampton.

The service is available to East Hampton residents age 60 or over on a first-come, first-served basis. The van is accessible, allowing transportation of wheelchairs and similar equipment. There is no charge for the service; however, donations are accepted.

Schedule your ride by calling the senior center at 860-267-4426.

### Lions Collecting for School Libraries

April is School Library Month – and the Lions are celebrating.

The East Hampton Lions Club is hoping to spend \$2,023 for the purchase of new library books for both Memorial and Center schools. The Lions have committed to this amount if residents match this amount. Anyone who donates can request which school their donation will benefit. Once again, the Lions Club will match all donations up to the amount of \$2,023.

Donations will be accepted April 24-May 15.

All titles will be selected by library media specialist Rebecca Flannery. Titles will be ordered this school year to be added into circulation at the beginning of next school year.

Checks should be made to East Hampton Lions Charities. Donations are tax-deductible and should be mailed to: East Hampton Lions Club, P.O. Box 153, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Contact Tim Csere at csere4@comcast.net for more information.

### Epoch Arts Accepting Tag Sale Donations

It's not even May yet, but Epoch Arts is already thinking about autumn – and this Saturday will tag accepting donations for its annual fall tag sale. The tag sale is Epoch's biggest fundraiser.

Tag sale donations will be accepted every second and fourth Saturday from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. starting tomorrow, April 22. Do not drop donations off at any other time, and do not leave

donations outside our building. You will only be able to drop off donations if somebody is there to accept them.

Items not accepted for the sale include: computers and any accessories including monitors, printers, keyboards and mouses; televisions; child car seats, cribs, mattresses, bed frames, couches, encyclopedias, textbooks, large exercise machines, old-style phones and cell phones, and large sofa chairs.

### Congregational Church News & Notes

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., is open for services with the Rev. Amie McCarthy every Sunday at 10 a.m. All services can also be accessed via Zoom by going to cc-eh.org.

**Seeds of Hope fundraiser Race:** Saturday, April 29.

Church school classes meet every Sunday.

The Yarners meet every Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-noon in the Fellowship Hall. All knitters and crocheters are welcome.

Choir meets every Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. All voices are welcome.

For more information about CCEH and its activities, visit cc-eh.org or call the church office at 860-267-4959 during office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

### DTC Scholarship Available

The Democratic Town Committee invites East Hampton High School seniors interested in public service to apply for the \$500 scholarship in memory of Governor William O'Neill.

Applications can be obtained at the high school guidance office and are due by April 29.

### Drug Take-Back Day

The East Hampton Prevention Partnership will participate in DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Town Hall.

Items that are accepted are prescriptions, Rx patches, Rx medications, OTC medications, vitamins, and medications for pets. Items not accepted include thermometers, inhalers, aerosol cans, needles and ointments/liquids.

Contact Courtney Fitzkee at cwidrick@easthamptonct.gov with any questions.



Elizabeth Sennett of East Hampton will discuss her 40 years in the art world at the East Hampton Art Association's Wednesday, April 26, meeting. She is shown here plein air painting at Edgar D Williams Sr. Memorial Park in East Haddam in early September 2022.

### Local Artist Shares Knowledge Next Week

Elizabeth Sennett of East Hampton will present a variety of ideas, from her painting mixtures to her poetry about her paintings, at the next meeting of the East Hampton Art Association (EHAA), on Wednesday, April 26, at 7 p.m., at East Hampton Public Library at 105 Main St.

Sennett will cover 40 years of her art world. She has taught painting for many years in various towns in Connecticut. She paints her world: her flower gardens, the New England landscape, floral still lifes, and the people she knows. She was one of the founders of the East Hampton Art Association and continues to be very active in it. She still continues to teach even after 40 years.

Sennett has displayed her paintings in many shows and has won numerous awards. Her paint-

ings are in many public as well as private collections. They have been purchased by Connecticut Bank and Trust, Jefferson Federal Savings, City Savings, Manchester Community College and Northeast Utilities. She has been known for her watercolor paintings as well as oils. She won the Esther Fay Memorial Award at the New Britain Museum of Art. There was a special featured story about her art in Ink Publications.

All are welcome. The program is free to members and students, with a suggested donation of \$4 for non-members. Coffee/tea and refreshments will be served.

Being a member of the EHAA costs \$15/year per individual or \$20/year per family. The art association's May meeting will be Wednesday, May 24 at 7 p.m.

### Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. each Sunday. All are welcome. To connect electronically, go to www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com for directions. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated with the Rev. Diana Rogers.

**Sunday School:** New students are welcome. Contact the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard for information at jneelrichard16@gmail.com.

**Lenten Vitamin Drive:** There is still time to donate during April, to benefit the children of St. Vincent's School.

**Church Directory:** An updated directory is in progress. If you have not yet had your picture taken, see Dick Napoletano after the service.

For more information or if in need of assistance, call the church office at 860-267-0278 or contact Donna Hryb, senior warden, at 860-633-0472.

### Ambulance, Fire Open House

All are invited to join the East Hampton Ambulance Association and East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department for an Open House day Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Folks can meet public safety experts, visit the ambulance bay and the fire station, and learn valuable skills.

At the Ambulance Open House, the ambulance crew will teach hands-only CPR and overdose prevention education, along with offering truck tours and Files of LIFE (Lifesaving information for emergencies). The address is 4 Middletown Ave.

At the Fire Department Open House, firefighters will offer fire education, fire extinguisher demos and vehicle extrication demos as well as truck tours. The address is 3 Barton Hill Rd.

These events are open to all ages.

### Volunteers Needed for Lake Clean-Up Day

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug will hold the town's annual Lake Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 22, starting at 9 a.m. at Sears Park.

Volunteers are needed – any amount of time is welcome – to help clean up the perimeter around the lake. All volunteers will receive a new Lake Pocotopaug T-shirt, garbage bags, gloves, directions, and area assignments, along with snacks at Sears Park.

Rain date is Sunday, April 23. For more details visit www.flpeh.org or call Joe Carbonell at 860-917-7366.

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## Obituaries

### Lebanon

#### Alan Robert Russell

Alan Robert Russell, of Lebanon, passed away Thursday, April 13, at Hartford Hospital, after a difficult illness with cancer. He was 68 years old. Alan was born May 28, 1954, in Hartford, a son of the late Donald and Alice (Windsor) Russell. Alan grew up in Glastonbury and graduated from Glastonbury High School.



Alan was a hard-working man who loved building, tinkering and creating new things. He was a self-employed carpenter working as Alan Russell Carpentry throughout his career and retiring a few years ago. In his free time, Alan was a member of the East Hartford Employees Golf League. He will be remembered for his happy demeanor and wonderful smile, which he maintained through the good times and hard times in his lifetime.

He will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his stepdaughter and her family, with whom he made his home on Amston Lake, Shelley and Robert Kay; a stepdaughter, Jessica Watson of Wisconsin; grandchildren Kelsie Kay, Codi and wife Ingrid Kay of Columbia, Abigail, Kate and PJ Watson of Wisconsin; a brother, Gary Russell of Colchester; nieces, Beth Kiss and husband, Doug of Coventry, Brenda Lincoln of Webster, N.Y.; a nephew, Donald and his wife Rena Russell of Colchester; great-grandchild, Phoebe Kay; and many other extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a sister, Donna Walsh.

A memorial service was held Thursday, April 20, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service followed that day. Burial will be private.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of Alan, please visit [www.auroramccarthy-funeralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthy-funeralhome.com).

### Colchester

#### Paul E. Bengston

Paul E. Bengston, 75, of Colchester, passed away Saturday, April 8, at Yale New Haven Hospital after a brief illness. Paul was born in Hartford Nov. 29, 1947, and grew up in Portland. The oldest son of Oscar and Madeline Bengston, Paul was followed by his predeceased brother David, and is now survived by brother Peter (wife Lori), sister Dawn (husband Russell Woodward) and sister-in-law Bonnie Decarli.

Paul's life and memory will also live on through his wife Susanne and his two sons, Stephen (Spouse Karisa) and Ryan. Paul's memory will also live through his grandson Cru and Paul's numerous nieces including Laura, daughter of Peter, and nephews, including Josh and Justin, sons of David. Paul would want more than anything to be remembered as a man who truly loved his family.

Paul served two tours in the Vietnam War with the United States Marine Corps. After Vietnam, Paul took numerous jobs including that with the Portland Police Department and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection until finally accepting a position with the town of Portland, where he served as the Director of Buildings and Grounds until his

retirement after more than 40 years.

Paul was an avid fisherman who held a United States Coast Guard captain's license, he was a skilled carpenter and lover of ice cream. Paul was a great friend to all and loved to make people laugh with his constant stories and humor.

Graveside services will be held Saturday, April 22, at 10:30 a.m., in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, today, Friday, April 21, from 4-7 p.m.

### East Hampton

#### Robert Jones

We regret to announce the passing of Robert "Bob" Jones, 79, of East Hampton, on Thursday, March 16. Bob passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his loved ones.

Bob is survived by his wife, Linda; son, Chris; sister, Linda Nadeau; sister-in-law, Judy Shapiro; and his nieces and nephews. A private celebration of life will be scheduled for family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Hartford Hospital Cancer Center.



### Colchester

#### Louise Labbe

Louise Labbe of Colchester passed into the arms of the Lord on Friday, April 14. She was 84 years old. Louise was born Aug. 2, 1938, in Hartford. She was a daughter of the late Henry and Loretta (Leroux) Noel.

Louise moved to Colchester in the early 1960s. As a single mother and homemaker, she raised her four daughters as a devoted and loving mother, seeing to their every need, supporting their every endeavor, and teaching them strength of character by example. She was a communicant of St. Andrew Church and a member of the Colchester Senior Center. Louise was a talented crafter, especially with blanket crocheting. She loved bingo, word search puzzles, gardening in her yard and going for leisurely walks around town.

She will be dearly missed, but always remembered with love by her children, Michelle (Todd) Firmin of Lady Lake Florida, Rachelle (Christopher) Weimer of Salem, Annmarie Ballaro of Taftville, Annette (Gabe) Daly of Plymouth, Mass.; siblings, Leo (Nancy) Noel of Vernon, John (Gerry) Noel of Wethersfield, Raymond (Marcella) Noel of E. Longmeadow, Mass., Jeanne Collier of West Hartford, Rita Powell of Irwin, Pa.; grandchildren, Brian, Marissa, Chelsea, Fletcher, Nicholas, Madison; great-grandchildren, Javon, Zyhair, Bruce, Wesley, Malaki; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents and former husband; she was predeceased by a brother, Raymond Noel and his wife Marcella, and late sister, Jeanne Collier.

Calling hours were held Wednesday, April 19, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral Mass was celebrated on Thursday, April 20, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial took place in the New St. Andrew Cemetery.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society.

For online condolences, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story



Irene Watson, left, and her husband Norman Dupuis, right, recently published a new book detailing the town's involvement in the Civil War.

★ *Colchester's War History, cont. from page 1*

tially enlisted. Then, their discovery of the 1889 Connecticut Record of Service book highlighted each man's military service in relation to the Civil War, which confirmed that far more than 200 people from Colchester served at some point between 1861-65.

The process, and pressure, of finding as many local connections as possible was like "peeling the layers of an onion," Watson said.

Some information led to interesting discoveries. The veterans' group known as the Grand Army of the Republic had a chapter in Colchester located at the site of the current senior center. Other times, it was difficult to reach firm conclusions, or write with absolute certainty that groups or individuals participated in specific events.

"It was frustrating and a delight," Watson asserted, adding that sometimes she would step away from the creative process for a month to decompress. Because the abundance of detail was limited, the authors had to balance creativity with fact.

"You need to read between the lines, but you have to be careful," she said.

Certain patterns emerge, which provide the reader with a more "human" understanding of a period that is often out of mind for many people. Dupuis pointed out that he learned Colchester had four sets of fathers and sons serving together, which was a "really neat find."

Colchester featured African American service members, musicians and medical personnel.

Many stories are elaborated on in great detail. Capt. Henry H. Crocker was born in Colchester in 1839 and enlisted on March 19, 1863. He originally enlisted in Massachusetts and was promoted to captain in 1864 before being wounded later that year in Cedar Creek, Va., where he led an operation that resulted in 14 prisoners being captured. Crocker was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in 1896.

George W. Riley enlisted 1863 and most likely lied about his actual age. The Army believed he was 20 years old even though he was only 15 at the time. Riley wasn't listed in the Connecticut Record of Service, and the authors believe his parents forbade him from serving, prompting him to travel to New York to formally enlist.

A passage reads, "A practice used by underage recruits who didn't have their parent's permission at the age of 16 years was to write the num-

ber '18' on a piece of paper and put it in one of their shoes. When the young men were asked by a recruiter, 'Are you over 18?' They could then honestly answer that they were 'over' 18."

Riley became sick in 1864 and was discharged. He died of tuberculosis in Colchester.

"It's so poignant," Watson said. "You can feel how distraught the mother was over this."

The book itself is dedicated to William Buckingham, Connecticut's governor during the war, who was born in Lebanon and attended Bacon Academy High School. He was also a stockholder of the Hayward Rubber Company.

Buckingham personally put up \$50,000 (nearly \$1 million by today's equivalent) in personal credit to help with the state's military expenses.

"There's so many different angles," Watson said. "These little gems pop up."

Beyond the stories of enlisted men, the book explores post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other cultural issues. There is insight into the contribution of women, who played an active role in the war effort.

There was a narrative of two brothers who enlisted, but only one returned home, resulting in survivor's guilt. Instead of PTSD, the term used was "soldier's heart."

The authors thoroughly studied Colchester cemeteries and provided detailed information for each one. One section that seems unique is the 31 markers at Linwood Cemetery known as the "Soldiers' Plot." There are four soldiers from Louisiana who likely never traveled to Connecticut, but were "embraced as honorary Colchester residents" in death.

The goal of the book, Watson said, was to help expand the Civil War knowledge and potentially learn about even more stories.

"We really hope this book will bring out more people," she said. "This is part of the fabric that makes the town what it is and if this helps make people more aware of that foundation, that would be wonderful."

Dupuis added that with this book and the previous one, as well, subjects that are often overlooked were flushed out.

"Very few people were focused on the little guy," he said.

The authors self-published the book and partnered with the Colchester Historical Society. Dupuis and Watson said they aren't making any profit on the book, but look forward to sharing their insights during community presentations.

"The fun part is getting to talk about it," Watson said. "It's our baby."

Copies can be picked up at the Colchester History Museum located at 24 Linwood Ave., adjacent to the Cragin Memorial Library. The Colchester History Museum is open to the public on Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., until December. The book will also soon be available through the historical society's website.

Dupuis and Watson are both members of the society. Dupuis is a retired Officer Director of the State of Connecticut and a retired Chief Petty Officer of the U.S. Naval Reserve. He is a member of the Alden Skinner Camp No. 45 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Watson has a B.S. in American history from Central Connecticut State University.

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## Obituary Policy

Obituaries must be submitted no later than noon Wednesday for inclusion in that week's paper. There is a \$75 charge for all obituaries.







Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional

# Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here is a double dose of the Rivereast Standouts of the Week for the week of April 10-16:

**Alex Zimmerman – East Hampton High School (Baseball):** Zimmerman connected on a pair of hits, including a grand slam in the fifth inning, as he drove in six runs to carry the Bellingers to a 14-4 victory over Westbrook on April 14. Zimmerman, a junior, was one of five Bellingers to score multiple runs in the lopsided victory. Gavin Santillo, David Johnson, Jason Johnson, and Andrew Wagner also crossed home plate twice.

**Chelsea Woods – East Hampton High School (Golf):** Woods shot a tourney best (47) as the Bellingers opened the golf season by competing against Coghinchugh and Lyman Hall at Jones Golf Course in Middlefield. Woods, a junior, shot par on two holes (four and eight) to secure the best overall score at the multi-school competition.

**Chris Lusignan – Bacon Academy (Baseball):** Lusignan pitched a complete-game shut-out, striking out six and allowing only one hit in a 10-0 win over Griswold on April 15. Lusignan, a junior, improved to 2-0 from the mound this season and also did damage from the plate in the win, driving in a run and scoring a run on a pair of hits.

**Jake Martino – Bacon Academy (Track & Field):** Martino won the javelin and finished second in the discus at the Hawks Invitational at Bloomfield High School. Martino, a senior, was one of the standout thrower among the two dozen teams that competed in the multi-school event which took place on April 14 and 15.

**Hadley Marchand – RHAM High School (Softball):** Marchand pitched a complete

game, striking out a dozen batters, as the Raptors breezed by East Hartford 16-1 on April 12. Marchand, a senior, also smacked a home run and a double, driving in three runs as the Raptors improved to 4-0 on the season.

**Joelle Goralnik – RHAM High School (Lacrosse):** Goralnik scored four goals as the Raptors pulled away in the second half to defeat E.O. Smith, 8-3, at RHAM High School on April 15. Goralnik, a junior, scored half of the team's goals and got help from sophomore Caitlin Rydel, who served up three assists and added a goal of her own.

**Luke Stennett – Portland High School (Golf):** Stennett continued to impress on the links, shooting a (-1) 34 to be the runaway medalist as the Highlanders defeated Coventry (152-181) in the team's first home match of the season at Portland Golf Club. Stennett, a junior, shot birdies on the final two holes to complete his round, while teammates Quinn Lapinski (38), Ben Fecteau (39), Aiden Peterson (41), and Joseph Lamalfa (41) finished behind Stennett as the Highlanders finished in the top five spots on the leaderboard.

**Natalie Przechalski – Portland High School (Tennis):** Przechalski scored a pair of individual victories as the Highlanders defeated East Hampton (5-2) and North Branford (5-2). Przechalski, who is serving as the team's No. 1 singles player, is one of three seniors on the roster – joining Amelia Hair and Isabelle McClelland, who are teaming up to serve as the Highlanders top doubles team.

To nominate someone as an Athlete of the Week or with sports-related comments/questions, email [joshhowardsports@gmail.com](mailto:joshhowardsports@gmail.com).

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## LEGALS

### TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Hearing

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on May 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:  
PZC-23-005: Lynn Robinson, 27 North Main Street, Special Permit for conversion to different non-conforming use, 8.2.D, Map 01A/ Block 39A/ Lot 15  
Text Amendment Regarding Required Setbacks on Non-Conforming Lots in the R-1 Zone: Section 8.2 of the East Hampton Zoning Regulations  
Kevin Kuhr, Chairman  
Note\* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450.

2TB 4/21, 4/28

### TOWN OF COLCHESTER LEGAL NOTICE

The Colchester Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on May 3, 2023, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following petition(s):  
**PZC 2023-006** of ASW, LLC (Applicant) and Roaring Brook Advisors, LLC, Kathleen B. Fabian, and Patrick M. Shugrue (Owners) – Zone Change from Future Development (FD) to Suburban Use (SU) for 57± acres of land located on Lake Hayward Road (Assessor's ID 03-09/049-000 - 19± acres; Assessor's ID 03-09/52B-000 - 18± acres, and Assessor's ID 03-09/52A-000 - 20± acres). Zoning District: Future Development (FD).  
At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is located in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).  
Planning and Zoning Commission  
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 4/21, 4/28

### LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ANDOVER BOARD OF FINANCE PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 7:00 P.M.

The Electors and Citizens of the Town of Andover are hereby notified that a Public Hearing of the Board of Finance on a proposed budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 will be held via Zoom application on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. to receive input from the public.  
Dated at Andover, CT this 18th day of April, 2023  
Andover Board of Finance  
Directions to join the virtual meeting via the Zoom platform:  
Join by Computer:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85187192796>  
Meeting ID: 851 8719 2796  
Passcode: 274372  
Dial by your location  
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1TB 4/21

### LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON- WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY ATTENTION SEWER USERS

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in East Hampton that the second installment of the sewer use payment is due and payable on April 1, 2023. The last day on which to pay without penalty is May 1, 2023. **Property owners will not receive a second sewer use bill for the installment due on April 1, 2023. The October bill was a three-part form which includes the April installment.**  
Payments received May 2, 2023 and later, including payments postmarked May 2, and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statutes 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before May 1, 2023 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of Revenue.  
As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions.  
**Please make checks payable to: Town of East Hampton.** Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online at [www.mytaxbill.net/easthampton](http://www.mytaxbill.net/easthampton) Note: **Your sewer account number is required when making a payment online.**  
Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am - 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am - 12:30 pm.  
Respectively Submitted,  
Scott Clayton  
Public Utilities Administrator

3TB 3/24, 4/7, 4/21

### NOTICE JOINT AGENCY/PUBLIC MEETING

On April 26, 2023, Scott Sanicki will hold a meeting as part of the East Hampton Inland and Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (IWWA) to explain the proposed project and potential environmental impacts and discuss the data and studies to be provided in its upcoming application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a 10 megawatt exemption for the Quiet Woods Water Wheel Hydroelectric Project. The project would be located at Pocopaug Creek, East Hampton, Middlesex County, CT. The meeting will be held during the regularly scheduled Town of East Hampton IWWA meeting as part of the agenda on April 26, 2023 at 6:30PM located at the East Hampton Town Hall and on Zoom (see website for details).  
During this meeting a public site visit will be scheduled and published following the discussion. For more information, contact Scott Sanicki 860-267-2759

1TB 4/21

### ADVERTISERS

*The Glastonbury Citizen and Rivereast News Bulletin* will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. *The Citizen* will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. *The Citizen* cannot guarantee specific placement.

### TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING MAY 01, 2023 NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET REFERUNDUM MAY 02, 2023

The legal voters of the Town of Marlborough are hereby notified and warned that the Board of Finance with the Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing in the Community Room at the Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School located at 25 School Drive on May 1, 2023, at 7:00p.m for the following purpose:

1. To discuss the Annual Town of Marlborough Budget in the amount of \$27,094,944 for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, as recommended by the Board of Finance.
2. To Consider and act upon any additional items which are the proper subject of a Public Hearing including Special Appropriations or Transfers of Unexpended funds and Retirement of Capital Project funds, as needed.

At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the budget shall be submitted to a Referendum vote upon the voting machines at the Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT on Tuesday May 2, 2023, from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to vote the following questions:

1. "SHALL THE BUDGET OF \$27,094,944 FOR THE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE, BE ADOPTED?" (This includes Town Operations, Local BOE, Town & Local BOE Capital Improvements, & Marlborough's Share of RHAM Budget)
2. "SHALL THE BUDGET OF \$30,598,391 FOR THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8 PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (RHAM) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024 BE ADOPTED?" (Marlborough's share of the Regional School District No. 8 (RHAM) is \$11,061,318)
3. "SHALL THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET OF \$540,990 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION (RHAM) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024 BE ADOPTED?" (Marlborough's share of the Regional School District No. 8 (RHAM) \$195,568)

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE, 26 NORTH MAIN STREET, PLEASE CALL 860-295-6206.**  
Zoom Link:  
Topic: BOS PH Proposed Annual Town Budget  
Time: May 1, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87363134202?pwd=b01ZVnVCUHVjYjY9Vm5HNXdTlUjFLQT09>  
Meeting ID: 873 6313 4202  
Passcode: 7DPAW4  
Dial by your location  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
Meeting ID: 873 6313 4202  
Passcode: 179724  
Dated at Marlborough, CT on April 17, 2023, by:  
Deb Bourbeau, Chair Board of Selectmen  
Michael Nastri, Chair Board of Finance

2TB 4/21, 4/28



# LEGALS

## REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 TOWNS OF HEBRON, ANDOVER AND MARLBOROUGH NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING MAY 1, 2023 AND BUDGET REFERENDUM MAY 2, 2023

The electors and those persons eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting of Regional School District 8 are hereby notified that said Annual Meeting will be held **virtually and in person** on Monday, May 1, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. for the following purposes via the following Google meet: Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/qhv-ndnm-ncm> Or dial: (US) +1 661-234-8133 PIN: 791 007 261# More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/qhv-ndnm-ncm?pin=6731003206690>

- To choose a Moderator to preside.
- To discuss a budget in the amount of **\$31,139,381** for Regional School District 8 for the fiscal year from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. The Moderator shall adjourn the Annual Meeting at its conclusion and the budget shall be submitted to vote upon the voting machines in each of the District's member towns of Hebron, Andover and Marlborough on May 2, 2023, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Sections 10-51 and 7-7, as amended, between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M., under the following heading:  
QUESTION 1 "SHALL THE BUDGET OF **\$30,598,391** FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (RHAM) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024 BE APPROVED?"  
QUESTION 2 "SHALL THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET OF **\$540,990** AS RECOMMENDED BY THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION (RHAM) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024 BE APPROVED?"  
Voters approving said Questions will vote "Yes" and those opposing said Questions will vote "No".  
Voting will be in the following polling places:

Town of Hebron: Hebron Elementary School 92 Church Street Hebron, Connecticut  Town of Marlborough: Marlborough Elementary School 25 School Drive Marlborough, Connecticut	Town of Andover: Andover Town Hall 17 School Road Andover, Connecticut
--	--

Persons qualified to vote at the Annual Meeting who are not electors will vote in their respective polling places. Pursuant to Connecticut law, no person who is eligible to vote in more than one town in the District is eligible to cast more than one vote at the referendum. Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, April 17, 2023.  
By Order of the Chairperson of the Board of REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8  
Michael Morris  
Michael Morris, Chairperson

1TB 4/21

## LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HEBRON ANNUAL BUDGET REFERENDUM May 2, 2023

The electors and voters of the Town of Hebron, Connecticut, and any other persons entitled to vote upon any matters contained in the notice are hereby notified and warned to vote in the Annual Budget Referendum to be held at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church Street in Hebron between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

- SHALL THE TOWN OF HEBRON APPROVE A FY 2023-2024 BUDGET OF \$39,565,203 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE?
  - SHALL THE TOWN OF HEBRON APPROVE A FY 2023-2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET OF \$847,886 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE?
- Voters approving the recommendation of the Board of Finance will vote "Yes" and those opposing the recommendation of the Board of Finance will vote "No".  
Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's Office.  
Dated at Hebron, Connecticut this 19th day of April, 2023.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Daniel Larson, Chairman  
Gail B. Richmond, Vice Chairman  
Peter D. Kasper  
Marc P. Rubera  
Tiffany V. Thiele

### TOWN OF HEBRON BOARD OF FINANCE RECOMMENDED BUDGET May 2nd, 2023

EXPENDITURES	AUDITED ACTUAL 2021-2022	ADOPTED 2022-2023	PROPOSED 2023-2024
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	3,395,951	3,497,919	3,619,792
PUBLIC SAFETY	1,019,519	1,137,949	1,355,372
CIVIC & HUMAN SERVICES	807,872	991,324	1,042,066
PLANNING & LAND USE	158,978	211,618	194,258
PUBLIC WORKS	1,094,928	1,025,997	1,108,462
INSURANCE & BENEFITS	1,704,828	1,670,107	1,760,405
CONTR. OPEN SPACE LAND ACQ.	125,000	125,000	25,000
CONTR. TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	768,877	587,485	733,017
CONTR. TO DEBT MANAGEMENT FUND	1,000,000	0	0
CONTR. TO CAP-NON RECURRING	0	0	0
CONTR. TO CAPITAL PROJECTS	152,022	156,796	230,187
CONTR. TO REVALUATION	50,000	40,000	40,000
TOWN PROPERTY SEWER FEES	14,280	14,280	15,400
DEBT SERVICE	1,093,110	1,092,124	1,105,594
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION	0	0	0
RHAM ASSESSMENT	13,971,475	14,259,027	15,389,082
TEACHERS RETIREMENT OBLIGATION	0	0	0
HEBRON BOARD OF EDUCATION	<u>12,030,194</u>	<u>12,207,294</u>	<u>12,946,568</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>37,387,034</u>	<u>37,016,920</u>	<u>39,565,203</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
TOTAL TAX REVENUE	29,716,676	29,190,545	31,677,264
STATE - GEN GOV'T SUPPORT	426,631	400,082	419,447
STATE - EDUCATION SUPPORT	5,989,237	5,997,693	5,713,831
DEPARTMENTAL	1,159,614	786,600	892,661
OTHER FUND TRANSFERS IN	45,000	0	0
DEBT MNGMT /UFB APPROPRIATED CONTR.	<u>99,143</u>	<u>642,000</u>	<u>862,000</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>37,436,301</u>	<u>37,016,920</u>	<u>39,565,203</u>
<b>MILL RATE:</b>			
Real Estate/Personal Property	36.33	31.70	34.09
Motor Vehicle	36.33	31.70	32.46

PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET 2023-2024	
Road Resurfacing and Road Improvements	\$320,930
Engineering/Design Public Works Facility	\$245,000
Replace Truck 52 (2007)	\$226,956
Jones Street Culvert Replacement - First Year Funding	\$55,000
<b>TOTAL CIP BUDGET</b>	<b>\$847,886</b>
<b>PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REVENUES 2023-2024</b>	
Balance from Previous Appropriations	\$33,639
LOCIP Funding	\$68,830
Funding from Other Sources: Public Safety Fund	\$11,400
Interest	\$1,000
General Fund Contribution	\$733,017
<b>TOTAL CIP REVENUE</b>	<b>\$847,886</b>

### Town of Portland

Legal notice is hereby given to the water and/or sewer usage customers of the Town of Portland that quarterly bills are due and payable April 17, 2023. Payments not made in full on or before May 17, 2023 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from the due date.  
Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the charge. Please contact the Water/Sewer department if you do not receive your bill at (860) 342-6735 or by email [darce@portlandct.org](mailto:darce@portlandct.org)  
Please feel free to leave your payment in the drop box located to the right of the back door at the Town Hall, which is located at 33 East Main St., Portland, CT or by mail at the address listed below.  
Town of Portland  
Water/Sewer Dept.  
P.O. Box 71  
Portland, CT 06480-0071  
Cynthia L. Gotta, CCMC  
Town of Portland  
Collector of Revenue

### TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Andover Planning and Zoning Commission took the following action at their Regular Meeting held on Monday April 17, 2023.  
APPROVED:  
Application of Robert D'Adamo, Jr. for a Special Permit so as to allow for the construction of a detached Accessory Apartment at the property known as 43 Aspinall Drive, Andover in accordance with Section 4.11 of the Andover Zoning Regulations and the application plan on file.  
Details of the application can be found on the Town of Andover's web-site ([andoverct.org](http://andoverct.org)) under Boards/Commissions documents or at the Building & Land-Use Office of the Town Hall, 17 School Road, Andover.  
Jim Hallisey  
Zoning Agent

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### MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING Thursday, April 27, 2023 6:30 pm at TOWN HALL LEGAL NOTICE

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:  
Application 579 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 91 Middle Haddam Road --- to install a 6 ft cedar wood perimeter privacy-style fence --- for applicant Judith A. Keefe.  
The foregoing application available for public review at the East Hampton Building Department. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.  
Dated: April 13, 2023  
Regina Starolis, Clerk, MHHDC

### LEGAL NOTICE

Residents in the sewer district in the Town of Marlborough are notified that Benefit Assessment bills are due to the Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority (MWPCA), April 1, 2023. The last day to pay without interest is May 1, 2023. Delinquent bills will be charged 1.5% per month reverting to the due date of April 1 or 18% per year. Minimum interest is \$5.00. Checks must be made out to MWPCA, sewer bills cannot be paid on-line. Payments may be paid at the Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street or mailed to MWPCA Collector, P.O. Box 29, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT 06447. There is a Drop Box, checks only and NO cash, to the left of the Town Hall door. Normal office hours for the Tax Office are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30am – 4:30pm, Tuesdays 8:30am -7pm and Fridays 8:30am – noon.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara C Murray

### LEGAL NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TOWN OF HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 7:30 PM, at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT, concerning the following:

- Petition 2023-2:** Request of Mark and Kandy Caccio, Applicant, for a variance of Section 2.E.5 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, to allow a 216 square foot accessory structure (shed) to be located 2' from the side property line where the minimum side yard setback is 10', on premise located at 44 Ames Rd, Amston Lake District.
- Petition 2023-3:** Request of David M. Pescatello, Owner, for a variance of Section 2.E.4 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, to allow a 960 square foot accessory structure (garage) to be located 10' from the side property line where the minimum side yard setback is 20', on premise located at 765 East Street, Residence 1 District.

Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, on this 18th day of April 2023.  
Martin Halloran, Chairperson  
Interested persons may appear and all written communications will be received.  
Legal Notice will be published in the Rivereast News Bulletin on Friday, April 21, 2023 and Friday, April 28, 2023.  
Legal Notice will be published on the Town of Hebron Website at <https://hebronct.com/agendas/>

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We're also available at Diroma Home & Garden Center, Griswold 860-591-1066

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**July 5<sup>th</sup> - July 28<sup>th</sup>**

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GRADES K-6

**fun & creative martial arts themed activities**

Champions Karate  
199 Old Hartford Road  
Colchester, CT 06415

Regular Registration **\$200**  
Current Students **\$175**  
Two weeks or two students: **\$325/250**

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860-531-8746

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**100% Pure Beef  
No Additives**  
**100% Pure Pork  
No Additives**  
**Fresh All Natural  
Chickens**

100% Fresh

It's 5 O'clock... Do You Know Where Your Butcher Is? Our Butchers Are Here When You Need Them  
5:30 PM On Sundays - 6:00 PM On Other Days



422 Windham Rd. Willimantic CT. 06226 860-423-3056  
Open 8AM-8PM

Wholesale Prices To The Public Effective Apr 20<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>

# TRUCKLOAD SALE

All Sale Items Are While Supplies Last - We Will Custom Cut And Bulk Wrap All Primals

Fresh Grade A All Natural  
**40LB Boneless  
Chicken Breast**  
Sold In 40lb Box  
Not Further Processed  
**\$63.98** /40 lb.  
Also Sold in 10lb Bag \$2.48 /lb

100% Pure Beef No Additives  
**90% Ex-Lean  
Ground Beef**  
Not Further Processed  
**\$3.96** /lb.  
Sold in 9 - 10 lb Bags

100% Pure Beef No Additives  
**Whole New  
York Strips**  
New York Strip Steaks & Roasts  
**\$6.98** /lb.  
12 - 16 lb. Average

100% Pure Pork No Additives  
**Whole Bone-In  
Pork Loins**  
Bone In Pork Chops & Roasts  
**\$1.78** /lb.  
14-20 lb. Average

Receive Our Truckload  
Before Everyone Else  
And Our Weekly Flyer  
Message & Data Rates May Apply



Scan to  
Receive our  
Flyer  
Be The First  
To Know

Fresh Grade "a" All Natural  
**40LB Boneless  
Chicken Thighs**  
Sold In 40lb Box  
Not Further Processed  
**\$63.88** /40 lb.  
Also Sold in 5lb Bags \$4.48 /lb

100% Pure Beef No Additives  
**Whole Boneless  
Top Sirloins**  
Boneless Sirloin Steak & Roast  
**\$4.88** /lb.  
14 - 19 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives  
**Whole Boneless  
Angus Rib Eyes**  
Consists of Rib Eye Steak & Roast  
**\$8.98** /lb.  
16 - 20 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives  
**Whole Beef  
Tenderloins**  
Consists of Filet Mignon Steak & Roast  
**\$9.98** /lb.  
4 - 5 lb. Average

**Bob's Super Bundle**  
**\$199.99**

- 3 Lbs. Beef Chuck Pot Roast  
100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 8 Lbs. 90% Ex-Lean Ground Beef  
100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 6 Lbs. Beef Chuck London Broil  
Steak 100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 4 Lbs. Country Ribs  
100% Pure Pork No Additives
- 8 Lbs. Center Cut Pork Chops  
100% Pure Pork No Additives
- 10 Lbs. Boneless Skinless Chicken  
Breast Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 3 Lbs. Beef Chuck Stew Meat  
100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 10 Lbs. Chicken Drumsticks  
Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 10 Lbs. Chicken Thighs Bone In  
Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 3 Lbs. 3 - 1 lb Packages Of Bacon

Please Order 1 Day Ahead  
Available After 12 Noon

Fresh Grade A All Natural  
**40LB Party  
Chicken Wings**  
Sold In 40lb Box  
Not Further Processed  
**\$57.98** /40 lb.  
Also Sold in 5lb Bag \$3.98 /lb

100% Pure Beef No Additives  
**Whole Prime  
Angus Top  
Rounds** Top Round  
Steaks &  
Roasts  
**\$4.98** /lb. PRIME  
20 - 25 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives  
**Whole Prime  
Angus New York  
Strips** New York Strip  
Steak & Roast  
**\$14.98** /lb. PRIME  
12 - 14 lb. Average

100% Pure Pork No Additives  
**Whole Boneless  
Pork Loins**  
Boneless Pork Chops & Roast  
**\$2.28** /lb.  
8 - 10 lb. Average

Fresh All Natural  
**40LB Chicken  
Leg Quarters**  
Sold In 40lb Box  
Not Further Processed  
**\$25.98** /40 lb.  
Also Sold in 10lb Bags 98¢ /lb

100% Pure Pork No Additives  
**Whole Pork  
Tenderloins**  
Bob's Family Deals  
**\$2.98** /lb.

100% Pure Beef No Additives  
**Whole Beef  
Short Loins**  
Consists of Porterhouse Steak  
**\$7.48** /lb.  
20 - 25 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives  
**Whole Beef  
Brisket**  
**\$4.98** /lb.  
10 - 15 lb. Average

Fresh Grade A All Natural  
**40LB Chicken  
Thighs Bone In**  
Sold In 40lb Box  
Not Further Processed  
**\$39.98** /40lb.  
Also Sold in 10lb Bag \$1.98 /lb

100% Pure Beef No Additives  
**Whole  
Sirloin Tips**  
Sirloin Tip Steaks & Roasts  
**\$4.28** /lb.  
8 - 10 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives  
**Whole Top  
Rounds**  
Top Round Steaks & Roasts  
**\$3.98** /lb.  
20 - 25 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives  
**Whole Bone-In  
Angus Prime  
Rib** Consists of Prime Rib  
Steak & Roast  
**\$7.98** /lb.  
18 - 22 lb. Average

Lessor Amounts \$3.99 /lb  
**Jamestown  
Bacon**  
**3/ \$10.98** /lb.

Fresh Grade "a" All Natural  
**40LB Chicken  
Drumsticks**  
Sold In 40lb Box  
Not Further Processed  
**\$19.98** /40lb.  
Also Sold in 10lb Bag \$1.48 /lb

100% Pure Pork No Additives  
**Fresh Genuine  
Spareribs**  
Consists of Spareribs & Riblets  
**\$2.48** /lb.  
10 - 12 lb. Average

**16-20 ct.  
E-Z Peel  
Shrimp 2Lb**  
**\$13.98** Bag  
While Supplies Last

100% Pure Beef No Additives  
**Whole Beef  
Eye Rounds**  
Consists of Eye Round Steak & Roast  
**\$3.98** /lb.  
5 - 8 lb. Average

Kayem &  
**Deutschmacher  
Natural Casing  
Franks 2.5Lb**  
**\$13.98** 2.5 lb.

Windham IGA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS- We reserve the right to limit quantities.  
Illustrations are for display purposes only and do not necessarily represent items on sale